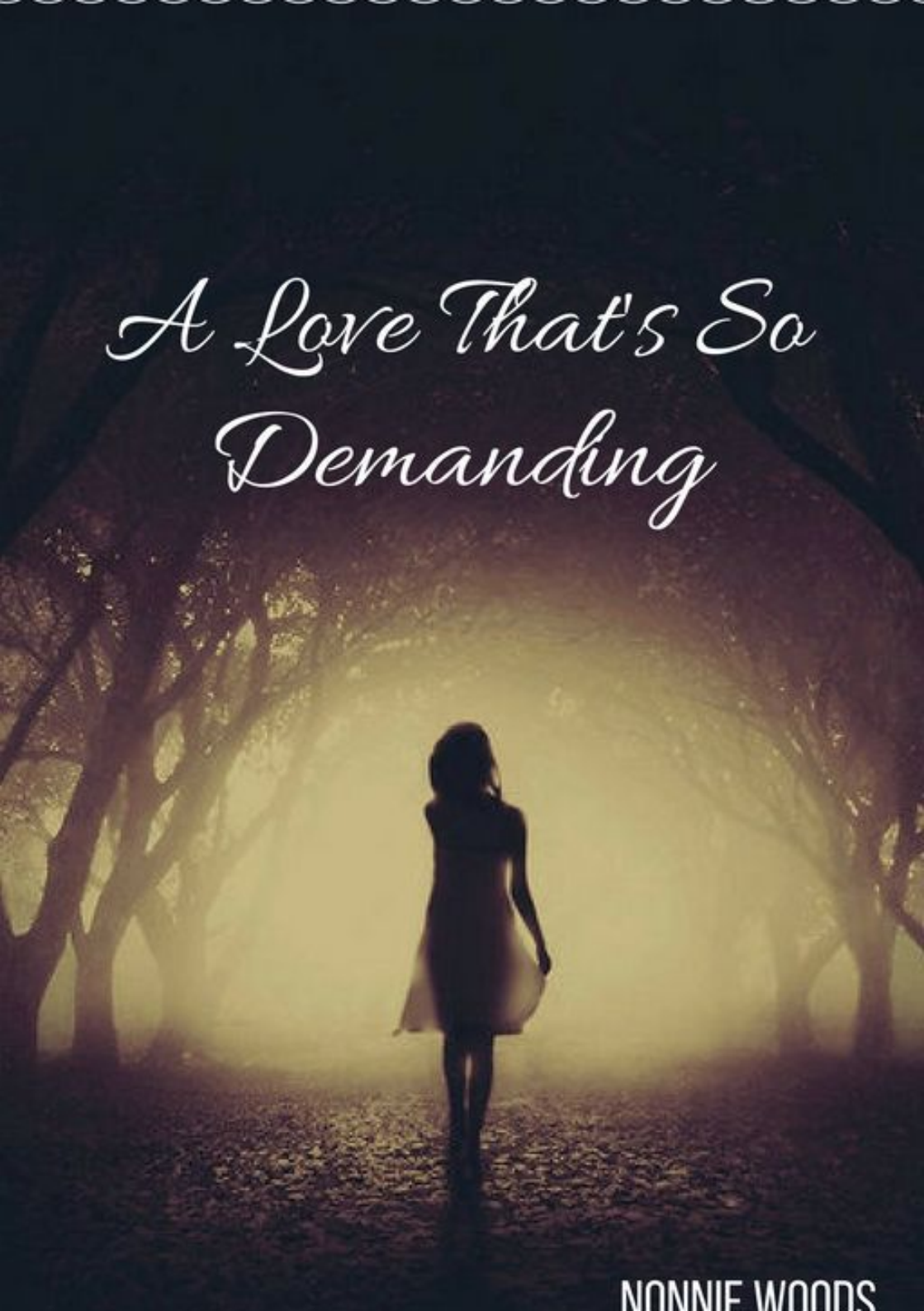
A Love That's So Demanding



NONNIE WOODS

Copyright Notice

A Love That's So Demanding

By Nonnie228

Ex Libris Sapientiae

2011 by Nonnie228. All Rights Reserved.

No reuse, redistribution, or modification without permission.

Printing: Not allowed without explicit permission.

ID: 1272. View this Book Online

Table of Contents

1. Guilt And Lies 7

2. Unrequited Love 13

3. The Daily Grind 19

4. Ending It 29

5. Sick & Tired 35

6. Momma's Baby, Papa's Maybe 47

7. Run 63

8. The Easy Way Out 73

9. A Love That's So Demanding (11,12,13) 83

10. A Love That's So Demanding (14,15) 99

11. A Love That's So Demanding (16) 107

12. A Love That's So Demanding (17,18) 115

13. A Love That's So Demanding (19, 20) 125

14. A Love That's So Demanding (21, 22) 135

15. A Love That's So Demanding (23, 24) 147

16. A Love That's So Demanding(25) 157

17. A Love That's So Demanding(26, 27) 163

18. A Love That's So Demanding (28, 29, 30) 175

19. A Love That's So Demanding (31,32) 187

20. A Love That's So Demanding (33 ,34) 195

21. A Love That's So Demanding (35,36) 205

22. A Love That's So Demanding (37,38) 215

23. A Love That's So Demanding (39,40,41) 221

24. A Love That's So Demanding (42,43,44) 235

25. A Love That's So Demanding (45.46,47) 245

26. A Love That's So Demanding (48,49,50) 255

27. A Love That's So Demanding (51,52) 265

28. A Love That's So Demanding (53,54,55) 273

29. A Love That's So Demanding (56,57,58,59) 285

30. A Love That's So Demanding (60,61) 297

31. A Love That's So Demanding (62,63,64) 309

32. A Love That's So Demanding (65,66,67) 321

33. A Love That's So Demanding (68,69) 333

34. A Love That's So Demanding (70,71,72) 343

35. A Love That's So Demanding (73,74,75,76,77) 353

36. A Love That's So Demanding (78,79,80) 369

37. A Love That's So Demanding (81,82,83) 379

38. A Love That's So Demanding (84) 389

Chapter 1

Guilt And Lies

Guilt And Lies

Edited by: Trensetta

(Nonnie's POV)

I woke up with the sun shining brightly through his bedroom window, his arm was still possessively wrapped around my waist. “Frank,” I whispered, “Frank I’ve got to get back to my room.” He moaned in protest but let me go seconds later. I went down the hall, to the room that I shared with my boyfriend, Travis.

How did I get into this situation you ask? I wonder the same thing, every time I wake up in Frankie's arms. We both know that what we're doing is wrong, but we continue to do it. The feelings of remorse set in afterward though, always after. We can't keep doing this.

I grabbed some clean clothes and headed to the bathroom. The last thing I needed was to smell like Frank's cigarettes when Travis got home. I'd stopped asking a long time ago where he spent his nights. I tried my best to have faith in him, to trust that he wasn't cheating on me. As if I had room protest, if he was…

I turned on the hot water and stepped into the shower losing myself in the calming, mind numbing steam.

The bathroom door opened moments later. "Travis?"I wondered aloud. The curtain was pulled open and I turned to see Frank staring back at me. "What are you doing," I exclaimed. Without answering my question, he crushed his lips to mine, as if I were the very air he needed to breathe. The way he kissed me

was so intense, so eager. I felt as if I would die if he pulled away for even a second.

Ten minutes into the mind blowing sex that we were having, I heard Travis calling out to us from the living room. “Non, Frank, anyone home?”

I panicked and pushed Frank away; he quickly got out of the shower and put his pants back on.

“Shhh,” he whispered placing his index finger against his red and swollen lips. He closed the shower curtain with a sigh.

“Hey Trav,” I heard him say.

That’s when I realized that Frank had never closed the bathroom door.

“Hey Frank,” Travis said, “What’s up?”

“Nothing,” Frank said nonchalantly. God he would make a great actor. If being a musician didn’t work out, he would definitely have something to fall back on.

“I see your bleaching your hair again.”Travis said. I poked my head from behind the curtain to see Frank

standing there in a pair of black skinny jeans and no shirt. He was leaning over the sink, his hair in the early stages of bleaching.

“Hey Babe,” Travis said when he saw me.

“Hi.” I croaked nervously.

“You couldn’t wait until after Non got out of the shower to do that?” he said smiling at Frank.

“Sorry I’ve got band practice in an hour.”

“Well, I’ve got good news.” Travis said clapping his hands together.

“What’s that?” I said, not as nervous anymore since Travis didn’t seem, even remotely, suspicious of us.

“I found a band.” he said coming right up to the curtain.

‘That’s great baby.” He’d been looking for a band for awhile but had, had no luck so far. He said that he had to find one that would accept the addition of his special talents. He was a rapper and lyricists, probably one of the most talented men I‘d ever met. He could sing too, but how original would that be?

“I would jump into your arms but I’m kind of indisposed at the moment.”

“Well how about I join you.” Travis said, glancing over his shoulder.

“Baby we better not start something we can’t finish. I’ve got to get to work.” I gave him a quick kiss and stepped back into the shower. I felt bad so I added, “We can celebrate tonight.”

Chapter 2

Unrequited Love

Unrequited Love

Edited by: Trensetta

I never should have followed her into the shower, I knew that it was a dangerous thing to do, but my sheets still smelled of her shampoo and the spot next to me in the bed was cooling off. Before I knew what I was doing I was in the shower with her. When Travis came in I had to come up with a quick excuse for why my hair was wet when I wasn't the one taking a shower. So I quickly started to bleach my hair, he bought it too. I don't know if I should have felt relieved or extremely guilty. I find myself

thanking God that we weren't caught, and then condemning myself to the pits of hell for having sex with her in the first place.

The worst part is that I actually have feelings for her, even though I know that she's my best friend's girlfriend. She's been like a sister to me for the longest time, but the thoughts I have about her now are definitely not brotherly.

I left the apartment in a hurry. I really did have to get to band practice. I walked the two blocks to the Way brothers' house with thoughts of Nonnie still running through my head.

Mikey and Gerard were becoming really good friends of mine. I've only been in their band for a few months but they already feel like life long friends. When I got to their house Mikey answered the door.

"Hey what's up?" He said moving aside with a surprised expression on his face.

"Nothing, am I late?" I asked.

"Uh no, your actually really early. What happened to your hair?" he asked looking confused.

"Oh I just thought I could use a change is all. Where's Gerard?" I asked sitting my stuff down by the couch.

"Down stairs, he's been reading comic books all morning," he said plopping back down onto the couch.

"What about everyone else?"

"Oh, Ray is on his way and so is Bob," he said flicking on the TV.

"Okay, cool." I said leaving him and heading down stairs.

"What's up Frankie?"Gerard said looking up from one of his many comic books.

"Nothing." I said sitting down on the on the couch

next to him.

“Nice hair."

“Thanks.”

We sat in awkward silence before Gerard finally spoke up.

“How long have we known each other?" he asked.

I thought about it for a second."A couple of months now, I guess."

"Yeah that's about right." He said with a thoughtful expression on his face.

He stayed silent.

I finally broke the silence."Are we going some where with this trip down memory lane?" I asked jokingly.

"It’s just that I know you well enough to know when there’s something wrong."

"There's not anything wrong with me, so I guess you don't know me as well as you think."

"Yeah... right. Tell you what, when you get that stick out of you butt, I'm here to talk if you need me." Then he went upstairs, leaving me to wallow in my thoughts. I knew that he was just trying to help but I couldn't tell him about Nonnie and I, I couldn't tell anyone. What would they think of us? I knew that no one would ever understand.

I just stayed in the basement waiting for the others to arrive, trying to come up with a way to bring my suffering to an end without hurting either of us the process. I realized awhile ago that I wanted Nonnie to be more than just a friend, that random sex wasn't enough for me. But I didn't know how she felt about me, what if she was still in love with Travis? It would probably be better to just end it. I didn't know what I'd do if she didn't feel the same way.

When Ray and Bob got there we got set up, and started to rehearse a new song that Gerard had written, something about Vampires. Bob started on drums and then I started the intro, Gerard's voice cut in, the lyrics moving smoothly with the beat of our

instruments. I was instantly calmed, all of my worries simply vanished as if they'd never been. I loved music… when nothing else was going right I could always count on my guitar.

We finished practice and everyone else left to their various destinations. I chose to stay. If I didn't go home then I wouldn't be tempted to do something stupid, like confess my feelings for Nonnie in front of Travis… Yeah it would be best stay here a bit longer. Besides, she and Travis were supposed to be celebrating tonight. I don't think I could bare to hear that.

Chapter 3

The Daily Grind

Chapter 3: The Daily Grind

Edited by: Trensetta

I finished bathing and got dressed for work. I was the only one who actually had a job, the guys were both pursuing music careers, which also meant that I was the only one paying bills. I didn't mind it though, they both mean everything to me, and I know that they'll take care of me once they make it big. We've known each other for so long. I met them in high school, senior year. My life changed that year, and they became the most important people in the world to me.

When I got on the bus Denae was there waiting for me, like every morning. She's short, about 5'2'', with long, black, red streaked hair. She was dressed to the nines as usual. I don't think I've ever seen her in a pair of flats. We always talked as we rode to work, and even though we didn't hang out much I still think of her as good friend. "Good morning." she said with a smile, I noticed her lip was busted, but I chose not to ask about it.

"Maybe for you," I said. I was rewarded with a curious look from her.

"Someone hasn't gotten any in a while," she said. I glared at her, sure I had snapped first, but that statement just hit a little too close to home, I thought I was "getting" a little too much.

"Hey, what's going on, we always fake fight on the way to work," she said with a pout.

"Nothing, I just woke up on the wrong side of the bed, is all."

“Look Non, we’ve know each other for a little over a year now, if you think I can’t tell when something is bothering you then you must think I’m really dense.”

I really wasn’t in the mood to to talk about my problems, she didn’t tell me her deepest darkest secrets, and even if she had, I just wasn’t the show and tell type.

“Look, do I ask you why you show up with new bruises every day?” My hand flew up to my mouth, I couldn’t believe I’d just said that. I’d been thinking it, sure, but.... “I’m sorry-”

“Whatever,” she said standing up, we’d arrived at our stop.

“Denae, really…I’m sorry.”

“Look just forget that I cared enough to ask what was wrong.” She left me standing on the curb feeling like the mud on the bottom of her high heals.

I walked into the office building, said good morning to the receptionist and kept on walking toward my cubicle. I’m a customer service representative for Maxeen Press, a publishing company. They run a

couple of websites that you can post you photos or poems on. It's actually a border-line scam, but it pays the bills.

I sat down in my chair and turned on my computer. "Good morning," Mrs. Linda said. She's a short black woman who has arthritis in her knees so bad it makes her hobble.

"Hey Miss Linda," I said. She was really one of the nicest people I knew, and since I was the youngest person working here, she and everyone else in the office made it a point to look out for me. Well, almost everyone...

"How's that boyfriend of yours?"She asked.

"Fine," I heard someone from the other side of my cubicle wall say. "I saw him last night at this club, that boy can really rock the mic." It was my other coworker Michelle, she's closer to my age. She had hair flowing down her back and was about 5"9', with green eyes and the complexion of caramel. I'd prayed that just once she would get a pimple, but her beauty wasn't the reason I hated her. It was the fact that she never once tried to hide that she wanted Travis. I bit

my lip to keep from saying what I really wanted to. I knew, or at least I hoped, that Travis didn't want her, but honestly I wasn't so sure.

"Hi can I sit here?" A boy with tight black skinny jeans and a white shirt with a giant phoenix on it asked. He had black hair, the greenest eyes and a smile that no one could deny. Apparently I was one of many.

"Sure." I said quietly and continued to eat my sandwich. It was lunch time on my first day at my new school. I'd already gotten detention for talking back to a teacher. My mother was going to kill me.

"I'm Frank." he said calling my attention away from my food.

"Nonnie." I said

"Nonnie?"

I was jolted out of the past, back to the more complicated present. Who knew that my life would be changed by a simple meeting. Yeah, the day I'd met Frank had been life altering all right... I'd never imagined I'd be in this predicament, cheating on my boyfriend with our best friend.

“Yeah Miss. Linda?”

“What’s wrong?” she whispered.

“Nothing.”

“I know your lying,” she said with a look duplicated only by interrogating mothers.

“Really, I’m just tired.”

“You need to tell one of them no good boys to get a decent job and stop playing around with those instruments.” I just smiled and logged into my work station. If either of them even thought about giving up their aspirations I would kill them.

I let myself get lost in the frantic pace of the call center. It wasn’t my dream career, but it paid the bills and the people were mostly nice. The busy phone lines made the day speed by and under normal circumstances I would be thankful, but with all the trouble going on at home, it just seemed like I was being punished more.

I spent most of my day ignoring my problems, but the moment I took that last call it all came rushing back.

I took my time packing my things and I was sure Mrs. Linda noticed, but thankfully she kept her thoughts to herself.

I got to the bus stop just in time to climb on and for once Denae hadn't saved me a seat. I tried not to let it get to me because I knew I'd been out of line. I tried to make eye contact hoping to get a chance to apologize, her face was buried in a book, she didn't even look up as I passed by. I knew she was doing it on purpose, if I were a good friend I would make her listen and accept my apology, but I was at the end of my tolerance and I knew that I'd have more to deal with at home. Twenty minutes later the bus came to my stop and she still hadn't looked up. So I got off deciding that if she didn't want to work it out neither did I.

I walked up to my second floor apartment and froze at the door. I didn't know who would be home. I was finally tired of the constant back and forth between Frank and Travis. My emotions had become too muddled. I didn't know if it was my paranoia that was destroying my relationship with Travis or my

guilt, or maybe I'd never really loved him, maybe it had always been Frank.

Frank, was there really any feelings other than our sexual attraction, or was I making up feelings to explain away the infidelity? He was my best friend and I couldn't say I trusted anyone more than I trusted him. He and Travis were my family and here I was destroying them both with my actions.

"Why are you just standing there?" Travis asked opening the door.

"Oh. I…I was just thinking." I said, finally walking past him and into the apartment.

"Must have been something big to have you just standing there, I was just about to come walk you from the bus stop. I made you dinner to celebrate."

"Babe, I should have made you dinner."

"You went to work and you paid for the food the least I could do was cook it."

"If you insist, is Frank here?" I asked after throwing my coat over the couch as I walked towards the table.

“No, I think he’s going to make himself scarce. He knows that we are going to be celebrating tonight,” he wrapped me in his arms and I relaxed. I knew it was wrong, but the only time I was able to truly relax with either of them is if the other wasn’t home. At the same time pangs of guilt and longing plagued me.

We sat down and ate a simple dinner of spaghetti with garlic bread and a glass of cheap wine. I watched as he spoke about each of his new bandmates but I wasn’t really listening. I hadn’t seen this Travis in a long time. He was excited, I was seeing someone I thought was gone. Someone I thought I would never see again. He’d found what he’d been looking for and now that he had it he wasn’t the bitter person that I’d come to expect.

I couldn’t do it anymore. It was over, I wouldn’t let this thing with Frank continue. And even though I’d said it before, looking at how the light had returned to Travis’ eyes I couldn’t imagine causing that light to go out. If he ever found out about Frank and I he wouldn’t understand how alone I’d felt or how good it felt to be in Frank’s arms.

With that decision made I stood up and pulled him from his seat and lead him back to our bedroom. I'm no saint, but I'd never made love to Frank in the bed we'd shared together. That should count for something, right?

For the next hour I poured my heart into our love making. Congratulating, apologizing and trying to give him everything he deserved. I had no evidence that he'd ever been unfaithful and it's been said that a guilty conscience will make you suspicious of the most innocent of mates. I'd been punishing him for months for my own behavior and tonight it was going to stop.

Chapter 4

Ending It

Chapter 4

I moved closer to Travis as we lay in bed. "Congratulations," I whispered into his ear. His eyes were closed but he smiled as he drifted off to sleep I lay there in Travis' arms and all I could think about was Frank, where was he? I wondered why he wasn't home, he couldn't be hurt because what we had was just sex to him. I was the one letting my feelings get involved. I hated the fact that I was falling ridiculously in love with Frank but neither one of us wanted to hurt Travis.

I felt Travis get out of bed. Then I heard the sound of his belt buckle as he put his pants back on. I looked at the clock it was only ten at night, we'd only been asleep a couple of hours. He couldn't even stay the night. "Travis where are you going?" I asked.

"I have to meet with the guys, so that we can start working on some songs. I won't be back until morning," he said it like it wasn't a big deal, but it was. Frank would have stayed, wouldn't have wanted to leave my side. Ugh! "Why are you thinking about him, it doesn't matter if he would have stayed or not. You're done cheating," I admonished to myself. I didn't say anything out loud to Travis, I just rolled over and pulled the covers over my head. I heard the front door open and sighed with heartache and frustration.

"Hey Frank," I heard Travis say. "Do you want to come with me, you know, meet the new band?"

"Maybe another time," Frank said, he was standing in the doorway. My heart skipped a beat, I could just imagine what he was thinking as he watched Travis get dressed. A minute later I heard footsteps and then

the door to his bedroom close. "Night babe," Travis said pulling the cover from over my head as he leaned down to kiss my cheek.

Then he left, without a backwards glance as if I had been a small pit stop on the way to do what was most important to him. I got out of bed and slipped on a t-shirt. My intention had been to go to the kitchen to get a glass of water, but I ended up going in the opposite direction to Frank's room. I stood there for what seemed like ages seriously reconsidering my state of sanity. But I needed to see him, to tell him that it was over between us. Or maybe I was just using that as an excuse to speak to him, if only for a few minutes.

"Come in," he said. I took a deep, calming breath knowing that once I was finished talking to him tonight, it would all end. Every embrace we shared, every mind blowing kiss would become a memory never to be repeated again.

When I opened the door he was sitting on his bed,a pair of sweatpants draped low on his hips. I instantly became aware that I was only wearing a large T-

shirt, a fact I knew wasn't lost on him. I should have put on more clothes. I stood in the doorway afraid to sit anywhere near him, knowing from past experiences that the moment he touched me all my thoughts would become jumbled and we wouldn't even think about stopping until we'd already gone too far.

"How was your day? I asked.

"You don't have to stand at the door." he said, I could hear a huskiness to his voice that told me what he'd do if I got close enough. I took another deep breath.

"Look... We should... I don't want..." I didn't know how to break this off. What were the right words? The words that wouldn't ruin the part of our relationship that may be able to survive this. "We can't do this anymore. I love Travis and this would kill him."

"I agree." I wasn't expecting him to make this so easy. "It ends now." He got off the bed and walked toward me. He kissed me on the cheek keeping his hands behind his back. I knew it was a struggle for him not to touch me, just as I was struggling not to move closer to him. "Goodnight," he said I turned and left

his room. This was the first time we both decided that we should stop, the first time we weren't in the throes of passion promising ourselves that this would be the last time. I crawled into my cold and lonely queen sized bed.

I tossed and turned thinking back on how innocent we all were back in high school. I'd met Travis only moments after meeting Frank for the first time and he took my breath away. I sat there staring at him for so long that Frank had to tell him my name after he'd asked for it. I kept thinking how handsome Travis was, I mean Frank was no slouch in the looks department either, but Travis had what I can only classify as classic good looks. I remember praying that I wouldn't say something that would be embarrassing or babble like an idiot in front of him, but Travis was the type of person who could put even the most squeamish of people at ease. Within moments I was laughing and relaxing like I'd known them both my whole life. That was something I'd desperately needed being in a new area and a new school.

I heard my bedroom door open and looked up to see Frank standing over me. The look in his eyes said it all and I wanted so badly to lift the covers and invite him into bed with me. To feel the warmth of his body next to mine and the feel of his hands as the moved across my skin. Just remembering the ardor with which we'd made love this very morning caused shivers to go through my body.

"I..." he started, but stopped as though he couldn't think of what to say next, though we both knew why he was in my room again.

"Frank, go to bed." I turned away from him. I couldn't let him see how much that hurt me, to tell him that I didn't want him lying next to me in the lonely bed. I closed my eyes and waited for sleep take over.

Chapter 5

Sick & Tired

Sick & Tired

Edited by: Trensetta

It's been two months since we broke it off, and everyone can tell. Nonnie and I were both in foul moods. I walked down the hall to the bathroom, the door was open and Nonnie was puking her guts out. I rushed over, got a wash cloth, and ran cold water over before placing it on the back of her neck. "Are you okay?" I asked once she finished.

"Yeah, I gotta go get dressed for work." She said attempting to stand. She swayed a bit before falling and I caught her before she hit the ground.

"You aren't going anywhere." I said, picking her up and carrying her to her bedroom.

"I have to go to work." She said in a poor attempt at arguing, she was too weak to really fight me; a clear sign that she was sick. I laid her in the bed and left to go get a cup of water. I'd never seen Nonnie sick, I'd known her practically all her adult life and part of her teens, and I'd never seen her so weak. I didn't like this feeling of helplessness, watching the woman I loved just about collapse had me completely panicked.

When I walked back into the room she was sitting up and trying to reach a pair of pants on the chair next to her bed.

"I told you you're not going to work, " I said, throwing the pants out of her reach.

"But the rent Frank," she said with with a sigh of defeat, the sick and worried expression on her face made me want to fix everything, to take the burden she carried and throw it over my own shoulders. She was the one who needed to be protected and taken care of, not the other way around, but she always

took it upon herself to take care of us, leaving herself last and usually unattended. God, something had to change soon, when we finally got our big breaks, Nonnie wouldn’t want for anything, she never be this tired, sick, and overworked again.

"What are you worried about, we’re three months ahead on the rent, no excuses, lay down." I said in a stern voice while gently pushing her back so that she’d finally lie back into the headboard covered in pillows. I handed her the glass of water, she drank and handed it back to me, using the last of her energy to do so. She laid down, and in about two minutes she was fast asleep.

I watched her sleeping peacefully and wondered where the hell Travis was. There was no way he hadn’t seen that she was sick, unless he hadn’t come home again last night. Since he’d joined that new band he'd spent maybe ten nights at home out of a full two months. I’d tried very hard never to judge him as the man that was dating the girl I loved but I couldn’t understand how he could not want to be with her every night, to hold her every chance he

got. I left the room and prepared myself to call Gerard and let him know that I wouldn't be able to make it to practice today, I knew he wouldn’t be happy, but Nonnie was more important than band practice, and I needed to be here for her.

“I have to take care of a sick family member,” I said pacing the hallway outside of Nonnie’s room door.

"Who?"

"Nobody you know," I said fumbling with the stray guitar pic I’d found in my pocket.

"Oh so it must be that girl you broke up with." I could hear the smirk in his voice.

"I didn't break up with a girl." Sounding like a petulant teenager, unintentionally...

"Yeah so you've been moping over who?"

"If you must know it's my room mate." The last part came out a little harsher than intended, I knew that I wanted more from her, the fact that I shouldn’t just pissed me off more.

"The roommate you've been moping over, isn't she dating your best friend."

"No she's the roommate who's sick. God, where in the hell do you get these ideas? I'll see you later okay," I said flicking the pic towards the opening of the hall.

"Alright, fine if you say so. Just try not to miss too many practice sessions. We have that A&R guy coming to that concert next week and we have to be tight, bye." I was going to have to make up a girl so he'd stop asking so many questions. I sighed and tilted my face towards the ceiling... I had a feeling this, love triangle we were living in, was not going to lead to a happy ending. And with that I heard the front door open.

"Hey Frank," Travis said walking towards me.

"Hey, Non's sick, so she's staying home today." I said trying to plaster a smile on my face that was completely for his benefit.

"What's wrong," he said concern etched into the lines of his face. Sometimes he reminded me of the guy I use to know. The caring, loving and concerned guy

I'd grown up with even before it was all about the band.

"I think it's the flu." I said, pulling myself out of the melancholy that had formed in the last 30 minutes, I really needed to get a grip.

"Oh well, uh I'll run to the store and get some cough medicine for her okay?" He said turning back towards the front door, and then there are those times when he acts like a complete prick, he hadn’t even gone to check on her.

I went back into their bedroom and placed my hand on her forehead. Her skin was a little clammy but she wasn't running a fever. I wandered into the living room and called my mother she hasn't always been a fan of Nonnie, but if I called and asked what to do if someone was sick she would give me advice.

"Are you calling me to tell me that you are going back to school?" My mother asked immediately upon answering the phone. I smiled picturing her in the living room I grew up in. With the same couch she and my father bought when they first got married. Thankfully she got me and the house in the divorce.

It was early but she wasn't due at the hospital until later in the afternoon. She was probably relaxing in front of the TV before she went to run errands or what ever she does during the day.

"I'm glad to hear that you still have a sense of humor." I responded.

"I swear if it wasn't for that little girl both you and Travis would be half way through med school."

"And miserable." I interrupted.

"You didn't even give it a try Frankie," she said falling back into our usual argument. "That loose little girl started crawling in your window and all of a sudden she's the one you listen to instead of me. Your own mother I raised you and I practically raised Travis..."

"Mom! That's not why I called. I have a friend that is sick. Throwing up and really tired but she... I mean he doesn't have a fever." I heard her sigh.

"If she came to my office I'd have her take a pregnancy test, but really it could be anything should I start planning to go to a wedding for that girl and Travis and don't lie and tell me that we aren't talking

about her. You're bad at it." I felt my heart squeeze at the thought of watching the two of them get married.

"No, mom I'm sure that's not it." Nonnie having his child and being his wife made me sick to my stomach. I knew that was the ultimate goal of every good couple to get married have kids and start a life together. "What else could it be?"

"Does she eat right? It might just be best to bring her..."

"Mom no, last time you two were in the same room you went too far with Nonnie and because she's my friend she didn't even defend herself. If Travis and I hadn't stepped in Nonnie would have just stood there taking your verbal attack as though she deserved it. Nonnie hadn't even said two words to you."

"Its your own fault Frank you didn't warn me that you were bringing her over with you I lost my temper. I promise to be on my most professional behavior. I'm a doctor for a reason when someone is ill I can put aside my true feelings to make them feel better."

"Maybe after she wakes up. I'll see if she's up to coming over." I heard her sigh loudly.

"Look check and see if you have any soda and crackers. Ginger ale would work best, but coke would do in a pinch. Feed her that and if she doesn't feel any better Frank bring her to me. I may not like her or her influence on you but her insurance is crap and I can at least refer her to someone." I smiled.

"Okay mom, thanks."

"Don't tell me show me by coming to dinner Sunday just me and my boys."

“I’ll think about coming, but I can’t guarantee that Travis will just leave Nonnie alone.”

“I know, but she doesn’t exactly need a babysitter. She is a grown woman and she doesn’t need to hog up all my boys time either.”

“Mom your claws are showing again. Calm down.”

“Okay, Frankie I’ll talk to you later.” she said I could hear her taking a deep breath.

“Bye Mom,” I hung up the phone and moved to the kitchen to check the fridge for ginger ale. We didn’t have anything in the fridge and I realized that Nonnie must not have been grocery shopping. Not that she was the only one who did the grocery shopping, but most times we didn’t get around to it so it fell to her. The more I thought about it the more I remember Travis saying that she was conked out on the few night’s he’d stayed home. I’d purposely stayed away from her. Not avoiding her so much as...well yes avoiding her. I couldn’t stop wanting to touch her. I didn’t sleep for the first week because I had to kept having to talk myself out of going to her room. Then I just started sleeping on the Way brother’s couch.

They didn’t seem to mind all that much and it kept me from having to hear whatever happened with Travis and Nonnie. I walked back to check on Nonnie and she was still knocked out. I saw on the bedside table a grocery list and an envelope that said budget. If I knew Non every item on that list also had a coupon to go with it. She wasn’t cheap but it wasn’t easy feeding two grown men and keeping a roof over

our heads. I felt bad about her supporting us, but everytime I tried to get a job to help she'd go off the deep end. She had more confidence in my band than I did. I grabbed both off the table and closed the bedroom door as I left. Usually I'd get Travis to help me with the haul, but I started dialing Gerard's number again.

Chapter 6

Momma's Baby, Papa's Maybe

Momma's Baby, Papa's Maybe

I rolled over in bed and was relieved when the room didn't spin as I stared up at the ceiling. I couldn’t believe how terrible I'd felt earlier and now I felt fine like nothing had ever been wrong in the first place. This has been going on for about two weeks now, usually Frank is still asleep so he doesn’t see me sick and Travis is almost never home to see me period. I looked around my room.

It was too late in the day for me to make it to work, but the last thing I needed after feeling this neglected by Travis is to be left alone in the house with Frank. I

know he's been avoiding me and I know it's for the best. I've probably lost him as a friend forever because of what we did. I can’t seem to be near him without thinking about his hands on me or my hands on him. If he's not in here he's probably off somewhere trying to take care of me, though I didn’t even want to think about how good made me feel, which meant I should get out of here as soon as possible.

I got out of bed careful not to move too fast and grabbed a pair of jeans then headed to the bus stop. Denae was probably headed to her favorite lunch spot, we sometimes met there during the week for lunch and I needed girl talk.

I was surprised to see Denae standing at the bus stop with two carry-on bags sitting next to her on the ground. She was looking down so I couldn’t see her face and while this was a convenient surprise my stomach jumped because I knew something was wrong. She shouldn’t be at the bus stop this late in the day and she certainly shouldn’t be carrying luggage with her. I walked straight up to her.

“Hi,” I saw her tense up, but she didn’t look at me. So I still couldn’t see her face.

“I’m sorry for what I said that day. I don’t have any excuse. I was out of line. I should have kept my mouth shut.”

“Okay,” She said again not making eye contact with me. I tried not to be hurt that she had yet to look up. I knew I’d screwed up and had even admitted it. I’d hoped that and two months would smooth things over.

“Come on, I said I was sorry, Denae please look at me I really need to talk to someone.” I said desperately. When she still hesitated at raising her eyes I things were worse than I suspected and tried to brace myself for whatever it was. I failed and I gasped at what I saw. She wore a giant pair of sunglasses but I could still tell that her eye was swollen and purple. Her lip was busted and she had a large dark bruise on her cheek. Aside from her clothes she looked a wreck; it takes her to be all beat up but still look like she should be on a fashion show's runway somewhere.

“Apology accepted but…”

“What the hell? Are you okay?” This was the worse I’d ever seen her beaten. “Who did this?” she sighed loudly.

“Look, It’s not a good idea for us to stay here out in the open. Lets go get some coffee.” At the mention of coffee my stomach took a turn for the worse. “Are you okay, you just turned green.” she asked with concern heavy in her voice. Then it dawned on me what could be wrong. I started counting days and felt the blood drain from my face.

“I…I think I’m pregnant.” I saw her eyebrows shoot up in question.

"Look you go over to Gina’s and get us a table in the back away from the windows. I’ll be right there. You think you’ll be alright walking over there? You don’t look too hot.”

“I could ask you the same,” I said smartly.

“I don’t think we can snark our way out of this one Nonnie.” she said with a straight face. “Can you make it?”

“Yeah,” I said. “I’ll take one of your bags.” She hesitated for a second then handed over one of her bags. I noticed it was the smaller of the two. I left her there and walked over to Gina’s. Gina’s Coffee Bean wasn’t a big chain, it was a mom and pop place that I got my coffee from some times. They had awesome pastries too. The motif was all warm browns and jewel tones.

Toward the back of Gina’s there were bookshelves, but there were some tables in strategic places to make it easy to grab a book and sit down for a cup of coffee. I sat down at one of the tables.

Surprisingly the smell of the Gina’s was calming my stomach. Denae hadn’t told me where she was going, but I had one of her bags so I knew she wasn’t going to ditch me.

Who the hell did that to her? I knew she was being abused and I had my suspicions as to who was doing it, but I’d never seen anyone with her. We were bus ride buddies and while I told her most of the things that happened in my life and we had a close enough relationship to share broad strokes of our lives we

never went into intimate details. Hence why she knew nothing about Travis and Frank?

Christ, what if it's true? What if I am pregnant? Whose child am I carrying? I hadn't had sex since the night Travis and I celebrated his finding a band. I'd ended things with Frank and we'd actually stuck with it this time. Travis was never home anymore, even less than before the band. Nine out of ten times I slept alone.

If its Frank's child it would ruin them both. Frank and Travis have always been a match set. Travis had drawn close to Frank to stay out of trouble he might as well be his adopted brother. He even had his own bedroom at Frank's mother's house.

I lay my head on my crossed arms. What if the child is Travis'. Am I really going to bring a kid into our messed up relationship. I couldn't even be sure that Travis would stick around.I didn't even know how Frank would react to this. I knew if it was his child he wouldn't abandon me he would want to be part of the childs life despite what he and I've done he is a good man.

I thought my life was screwed up as a kid. I had no Idea it would just get worse as an adult. I couldn’t even blame this mess on anyone else. I jumped as something thumped on the table near my head.

“Look I’ve got about an hour and a half before I have to get to the airport. So go into the bathroom and take this pregnancy test. Then we can decide how you should react. You might not even be pregnant and if that’s the case you can just go home and rest for the rest of the day. I’m sure its just you working too hard.” Denae said taking the seat across from mine. I smiled.

“You’re right, but first…”

“No we can talk about me after we find out if you’ve got a bun in the oven.” My attempt to stall had failed and I knew I had to face my problem despite my being worried about Denea. I got up and made my way to the bathroom.

Ten minutes later I sat across from Denae in at our table. I didn't know how to feel. I was pregnant and had no idea who the father was. Now that I, I understood that I should be more concerned with the

friend sitting across from me as she looked a lot like she'd gone three round in the ring and lost, but all i could think about was the test flashing pregnant.

"Look, from what you've told me you and Travis are perfect together, so all you have to do is go home and tell him. He may not be happy at first, but if he's not a jerk he'll come…"

"I don't know that it's his baby," I blurted out interrupting her.

"What? I thought you two were still together." She said puzzled.

"I...I cheated." I confessed.

"But, what about Travis?" She said completely flabbergasted. "I know you love him from the way you…"

"It wasn't on purpose. I mean... Travis and I had a fight. He'd been been spending a lot of time at clubs looking for a band back then. It didn't bother me him being in clubs, what drove me crazy was him smelling like perfume. I'd even found lipstick on his collar a couple of times. I turned into the total jealous

girlfriend cliche and I could feel him getting more distant, moving further away from me.” I stopped talking and took a deep breath. I couldn’t look at Denae I was afraid she would judge me for what I was about to tell her. “Travis stormed out and I pleaded with him not to go. I told him we still had more to talk about, but he walked out anyway. He just got up and left me crying on the couch. Frank walked in right after Travis left and found me. Frank asked me what happened and I told him the whole story. When I couldn’t talk anymore He let me cry on his shoulder and he wrapped his arms around me. He told me it was going to be ok.

And I started thinking about Frank. How Frank had always been there for me. How he'd never have walked out on me like Travis, Frank would’ve stayed and we would’ve worked out whatever our problem was. He’d never neglected any of his past girlfriends or his friends in general. Frank is a good man. I got comfortable. Travis hadn’t ever held me that way. He isn't a warm and comforting boyfriend. He can be cold and calculating in the affection he gives. Sometimes even now I feel like I'm just an itch he has

to scratch before moving onto what he really wants to do. Frank would never let me think he was cheating on me and next thing I know I'm brushing my lips across his. We were both surprised, I'd never thought of Frank as anything other than a friend, but after that kiss I realized how genuinely attractive he was.He called my name and I guess he was about to stop me, but I didn't let him finish. I don't know why, but I felt like I needed him. So I kissed him again this time he hesitated before he put his hand on the back of my neck holding me in place so I couldn't pull away even if I'd wanted to. I asked myself 'why am I kissing Frank?'.

As he pulled me closer I didn't care that this wasn't my boyfriend or that it was my boyfriends best friend. I just cared that it was Frank. I don't know how long that kiss was, but something finally clicked for both of us and we both pulled back, flying as far away from each other as we could. I apologized, disgusted with myself and instead of the two of us running away and hiding from each other Frank moved closer taking both of my hands. The look in his eyes scorched me. He stood up my hand still held

in his. I couldn’t look away from him and found myself standing up. He started moving toward his room. I knew there was no turning back.

He closed the door behind me and I just stood there for a minute, tying to understand what I was doing. He tried again seeing my hesitation to talk me out of it but I cut off his words with another kiss. I felt terrible doing this to him, making him betray his best friend, but I couldn’t let this chance pass me by. This time there was no hesitation as he kissed me back and I turned off my brain, it was screaming that this was wrong, but it felt right and I don’t just mean the physical part. I felt like this was where I really belonged.

When I finished I looked across the table at Denae. I expected to see condemnation and hate, but all I saw was my friend. I actually felt better telling someone. She was deep in thought.

“You have to tell them.”

“No, not only will it hurt Travis, it will ruin their friendship. I won’t do that.”

“So what are you going to do? Have an abortion.”

“No!” I screamed, causing the other patrons to look at us. I couldn’t kill my baby. “I don’t know what I’m going to do.” I can’t let Travis raise a child that isn’t his and I can’t keep Frank’s child from him.

“You could have a DNA test done.”

“It would kill them. Travis and Frank are like brother’s. In all the years that they’ve known each other they’ve never fought. I mean not a real fight. Yes they’ve been mad at each other but they always came back to being best friends. I came in late though. I can’t be the reason they fall apart Denae. I can’t be the one who ruins them. I’ve done everything to support them and if they don’t have each other…” My heart was breaking. I never thought that this would happen. I don’t even know how it happened.

“You’re coming with me.” I looked at her like she was crazy. “Look you can’t stay here and you don’t have anywhere else to go. I have a place we can stay in LA. They won’t be able to find you and you won’t tear apart their bromance.”

“I don’t know,” I said still unconvinced.

“New York no longer agrees with me.” she motioned to the bruises on her face.

“I’m a crap friend. You are not okay and I’m so lost in my own mess I didn’t even ask about you.” I said feeling terrible.

“It’s okay, I have a way to solve my problem and now so do you.”

“So tell me what happened and how can I help?”

“Its my boyfriend, his name is Wyatt. He has a bit of a temper and he usually takes it out on me.” she’d never told me this much so I sat there quietly as she explained everything to me. “ Don’t look at me like I'm stupid. At first it wasn’t that bad just a push here or a slap there and he always promised me it would never happen again. You know I thought ; He’ll fall so far in love with me that he won’t hit me anymore that he wouldn’t be able to do anything but protect me from the bad things in the world, but the longer I stayed the worse things started to get.

This just happened last night. I set him off and I try to tell myself that its not my fault, but he’s always said that it is my fault. That I make him that way because he loves me so much. He can’t help himself a year ago I decided to leave him, but I knew if I stayed here he would find me and I would never be able to hide. I was just waiting till I had enough money for a plane ticket to L.A. it took so long cause he likes to know where I spend my money.He counts it, takes my paychecks and if anything didn’t add up…So now that I’ve saved enough to get there I’m going. I know you have a little put away, I’d hoped to have a little bit of spending money when we get there, but I’ll use that money to help you with your ticket. You know I’ve been planning this for a while, but the reason now was perfect was because I wasn’t trying to stick around for you. We had that fight and I knew you wouldn’t miss me. Nonnie this is a good plan. If you decide later that you want to move back here or tell them where you are that’s what phones are for, but for now it’s best that you leave.” I thought about it. I didn’t have much of a choice. I couldn’t face the two people I cared about most in this world.

“When does our flight leave?”

Chapter 7

Run

Run

I held four bags of groceries in each hand as I walked up to our apartment buildings front door. I wasn't looking forward to having to climb the steps to the second floor where our apartment was located and as I looked behind me I could tell Gerard wasn't looking forward to it either.

"Hey, is Non feeling better?" Travis asked walking up to the door from the opposite direction.

"Did you bring her the medicine?"I asked. There was a long awkward pause.

"Ha, he must have left his wallet home." Gerard said with a smirk. He handed the groceries to Travis and added. "Do not lose these. See you later Frank." And then he was gone.

"I got it. It's in my pocket?" Travis said obviously lying. I felt my temper flare.

"I thought you would have been home way before I finished at the grocery store. I mean the drug store is just around the corner," I said trying not to lose my temper as we made our way upstairs. I was pissed that Nonnie had been home alone for this long when she was feeling so bad.

What if she's gotten up and had another dizzy spell like the one she had this morning? I'd noticed that Travis had changed his clothes since he left the house this morning and there is only one reason for him to have done that. I struggled a moment with the bags as I tried to open the door and wondered how Nonnie would have been able to manage without Travis or I there to help. It didn't happen often but there had been occasions when shed had to go by herself. I resolved as I placed all of my bags on the

countertop that it wouldn't happen again. Travis sat his down as well and then headed back to check on Nonnie. It killed me a little but I stayed in the kitchen and started putting away the groceries.

"Where is she?" Travis said coming back into the kitchen.

"What do you mean where is she? I left her sleeping in your bed." I answered walking back to look in his room but when I got there all I saw was an empty bed. I let loose a string of curse words. The worry that I'd been keeping a strict control of suddenly boiled over and an unexplainable feeling of foreboding settled in the pit of my stomach. "She probably went to work."

"But you said she was sick." Travis accused.

"She was when I found her in the bathroom this morning she nearly collapsed. She still insisted that she was going to work until I made her lay back down." I explained.

"Okay, I'll call her office and then go and get her." He said. I could tell he thought I was overreacting, but I

had a feeling telling me that something was wrong with Nonnie. I watched as he dialed the number on our land line and was struck again by how we'd neglected our responsibilities for our ambition. We couldn't afford to have cell phones because three phones was too much for Nonnie to handle on her own.

"The receptionist said she didn't come in today. Where else would she have gone?" Travis asked.

"Maybe she tried to go in but didn't make it. I'm going down there maybe on the way I'll run into her. Can you call the hospitals and see if she's been into any emergency room?" I left with the resolve that first thing in the morning I was getting Nonnie a prepaid phone for emergencies. We'd talked about it in the past, but she'd always argued that it wasn't worth the money. The bus ride to her job was uneventful and even though I had already called I went into the building and ask the receptionist if she had shown up in the past twenty minutes. When I receive the same answer again I return to the corner to catch the bus back home. As I stood there waiting I decided it

might be a better idea to walk in case Nonnie got off at the wrong stop in her confusion.

As I walked the route my mind raced through everything I needed to do to fix our friendship. She'd already chosen Travis, but I knew she would and I would never ask her to choose between us anyway. However, I couldn't continue living with them, not after tasting her kisses and feeling her body responds so eagerly to mine. Lately I found myself hoping that Travis and she break up so I can have a chance at something that isn't just physical with her.

After I was sure Nonnie was okay I was going to move out. The Way brothers had the extra space and since I'm part of the band they wouldn't mind me crashing with them until I can afford to get my own place. I never should have allowed my feelings for Nonnie to get this deep. The night this all started wasn't the first time I'd found Nonnie attractive. The other times I just shrugged it off thinking that I was just lonely and too long without a girlfriend.

I'd held her in my arms a million times before that night and nothing came of it. That night she kissed

me and all those feelings I'd ignored broke through and even though I knew it was wrong and she was vulnerable I still let it happen. Hell after my aborted attempts at stopping I encouraged and participated in the affair for six months. The whole time I felt guilty but being with her felt right. It felt like coming home. I know Travis loves her and maybe with me out of the way they can work on getting things back to how they were in high school. Travis has never been big on showing his affection but he did it often enough back then.

I looked up to see that I'd made it back home. When I opened the apartment door I could hear Travis talking on the phone.

"Yes, her name is Nonnie Woods," he paused waiting for a response. "Thank you for checking. Non?" He called.

"No," I answered. "It's me."

"I called hospitals as far away as Jersey. No one has her admitted. Can you think of anywhere else she could have gone?"

"No, she only goes to work and comes home. Unless she's with us." I replied.

"You don't think she went to see her mother do you?" Travis asked doubtfully.

"No way, after her Mom's boyfriend hit on her in highschool. Nonnie wouldn't go back there."

"Travis? Frank?" Nonnie's voice rang out as she came into the door.

"Nonnie!" I yelled sharper than I'd meant to, which was evident in the way she cringed. I was so relieved to see that she looked fine. I started toward her, but Travis was closer and reached her before I could. I froze watching as he ran his hands over her. I turned away hoping that when I turned back around my jealousy would be under control and the concern I felt would be dialed back to what would be appropriate to our current relationship.

"Calm down," she said with what sounded like a nervous laugh.

"Frank said you were sick." Travis said accusing voice.

"It must've been something I ate. I took a nap and felt better when I woke up." She explained.

"You almost passed out this morning Non." I said turning to look at them.

"I just stood up too fast and got dizzy Frank." Nonnie said detangling herself from Travis. "I had to go out because I promised to see Danea off at the airport today."

"You went to the airport?" Travis asked confused.

"No, I forgot that she asked me to give her some clothes. She's leaving an abusive relationship remember I told you she would show up with bruises and stuff." She walked past me, her voice raising as she headed toward her room. "Well, she finally decided to leave him, but she couldn't take anything with her and I have to hurry because her flight leaves soon."

"No, honey I think you should see a doctor." I said following her.

"Frank, I'm fine." She said stuffing clothes into her bag. "Did I see grocery bags?"

"Yeah, I got the list and cash from the night table." She finally stopped and looked at me. I saw her eyes soften.

"Thanks Frank." She said. "For the groceries and for this morning."

"No problem." I said quietly. Travis stood beside me so I cleared my throat and said it again loud enough for her to hear.

"Alright, Non, next time do you mind leaving a note or something so we don't worry?" Travis said walking over and kissing her on the forehead.

"Sure." She answered.

"I was thinking we should get a prepaid phone for each of us. With just a few minutes for emergencies and a few of them have free texting so this type of thing won't happen again, we can get them first thing tomorrow." I stated my case expecting Nonnie dispute it. Instead she just nodded agreeing and added more clothes to the bag. She didn't even seem to be paying attention to what she was packing.

"Could you guys put away the groceries for me?" She asked.

"Yeah, I got most of the perishables taken care of, but we'll get the rest. Come on Frank." Travis said leaving the room.

"Are you sure you're okay Nonnie?" Something about this just felt wrong. She stopped and smiled at me, but it wasn't a normal smile this one didn't reach her eyes.

"Yes, I'm just in a hurry to get Denea out of town. If her boyfriend catches on he'll be looking for her." I let out the breath I'd been holding in and smiled.

"It'll be fine. Do you need help?" I asked just to be sure.

"No, just the groceries."

"Okay." I went to go help Travis.

Chapter 8

The Easy Way Out

The Easy Way Out

"Okay Non, make this quick. Grab a few things and then we have to go." Denea said.

"What if they're home?" I asked nervously.

"Then you lie. Just leave the letter you wrote in a place where they won't find it right away. Now go on this cab is going to cost a fortune." She push me toward my door and I rushed up to the apartment hoping that the guys were not home.

When I called out though Frank answered and Travis rushed to me checking over. I saw Frank turn away

from us, but not before I saw the tortured look on his face. It solidified that I'd made the right choice to leave. I glimpsed the grocery bags on the counter in the kitchen and lied. Well I didn't out-right lie. I just omitted the parts of the truth that would put them on guard and leave me explaining why I had to move out.

After they followed me into my bedroom I asked them to put away the groceries so they wouldn't notice what and how much I packed. Besides they kept making me have second thoughts when I looked up to see both of them watching me.

"Later guys." I said rushing out of the front door out to the cab. I tossed the bag into the backseat, climbed in myself and burst into tears. I knew this was the only solution. Denea wrapped her arm around me and I leaned on her shoulder as we drove away.

"Do you think I made the right decision?" I asked Denea as we boarded the plane. It had taken me half the cab ride to get my tears under control and now that it was the final hour I was having second thoughts about leaving.

"I don't know what you want me to say. When you first told me about your problem I gave you the best advise I could and that was for you to tell them both what was going on," she said turning in her seat to look at me. We were fortunately able to change her seat at the last minute so that we could sit together. "Nonnie this is your last chance to change your mind. This is the easy way out you don't have to tell Travis about what happened and they get to go on as friends without you, if you stay on this plane and that is what you wanted right? For their relationship to continue strong without you there complicating things right?"

"Right," I answered.

"So I'm getting that you want reassurance that you're making the right decision, but I'm not going to tell you that when I don't think you are. Really the first answer I gave you was the right decision even though I understand the reason you didn't choose to stay and face the music. Now what I am going to do is support the decision you have made and make sure

that when we get off this plane in L.A. you have a roof over your head and food in your belly."

I wanted to be mad at her for telling me I was making the wrong decision and that I was taking the easy way out, but the truth was she was right. Not only that, but if this was the easy way out it certainly didn't feel good which meant the hard way was going to be worse and I probably couldn't handle that seeing as how I was barely holding it together now.

"Thanks," I said genuinely thankful that she told me the truth.

"Please girl you know you want to hit me for saying that," She said with a smile.

"Yeah, but if you can't tell me the truth who can you tell?" I asked. We both relaxed into our seats and I drifted off to sleep after all the tension from my day I was exhausted. I knew that I would never see Frank or Travis again and that was something I would have to come to terms with. I had a baby to take care of now. They were two grown men they certainly didn't need me around, but I was going to miss them.

When I finally woke up it was time for us to change planes and we quickly grabbed a bite to eat in the airport before boarding our connecting flight. I tried to sleep though this flight as well but I wasn't very tired after sleeping the first half of the trip. So Denea gave me one of her magazines and I flipped through it until I got bored then I just looked out the window at the clouds we flew over until my eyes started to get heavy again.

We arrived at LAX the next morning. We rushed to grab our bags and get a cab. I had no clue where we were going, but Denea provided the address and the cab driver seemed to know exactly how to get there. I watched the palm trees pass my window and thought about how I'd hoped my first trip across the country would be accompanying the guys on tour.

The ride wasn't long but it wasn't short either. The building we pulled up to didn't look bad. It had nice landscaping and the building and grounds were clean. I paid the cab driver and Denea and I grabbed our bags from the trunk. I let her lead the way as we walked up two flights of stairs.

"Whatever she says when she opens this door just remember that she's not going to turn us away." Denea said "I've known her since preschool and she loves me like a sister so while she maybe pissed at me for showing up unannounced she won't turn us away."

"Wait, she doesn't know we are coming?" I asked incredulously, but she'd already knocked on the door. I shut my mouth and shook my head. I knew that Denea said whoever lives here won't turn us away, but what if they do. I might have enough saved for a week at most at a hotel or motel and here where the cost of living is super high probably less.

"Who is it?" A female voice called from behind the door.

"Pizza delivery," Denea said with a smirk.

"I didn't order any pizza," the voice said opening the door and she froze when she saw Denea. "Oh my god!" Denea flinched.

"Hi, Ray," Denea said.

"You had better be here because you left that sick son of a..." Ray started to say only to be cut off by Denea's answer.

"It's over and he doesn't know where I am."

"You look terrible," Ray said.

"Thanks, you look great can we come in?" Denea replied.

"And who is this?" Ray asked.

"This is Rachel," Denea said looking at me. "Rachel this is Nonnie, She's going to be staying with us."

"Wait one minute. What makes you think you can just show up here and I'll let you stay? You are the one that decided to stay with the low down dirty dog you like to call Wyatt. Even after I told you he was bad news and gave me the creeps. We were supposed to move here together..."

"Because you're my best friend and I... We need your help. Nonnie's pregnant." Ray stood in the door looking at us a few more seconds then finally moved back enough to let us in.

"You guys are just lucky that I got the three bedroom instead of the one bedroom." Then she turned and closed the door locking it behind us. "So what's your story? Your boyfriend beat you too?"

"No," I paused trying to decide what I should tell her about my situation and decided that the truth was probably best. And so that's what I did. I sat down on the couch nearby and started from when I met the guys in high school until leaving them.

"So which one do you love?" Ray asked.

"Both of them," I answered.

"No, I mean which one are you in love with? Whose baby do you hope you're having?"

"I..."

"If you don't know then that's what I want you thinking about before that baby is born. Whomever's child it is deserves to be in its life."

"Ray, leave the girl alone. She does have a lot to think about and she's not going to do any of that after the long flight we just got off of," Denea said coming to

my rescue. I sent her a thankful smile and gave a sigh of relief.

"Fine, she gets the bigger room though cause I'm still pissed at you for not listening to me about Wyatt."

"Fair enough," Denae said. I was happy when she showed me a room with a queen-sized bed.

"Listen, you look tired and you're probably hungry. I'll order something to eat and you get some rest. Then we can talk about getting you a job. You can stay here for as long as you want you just can't stay for free," Ray said.

"No problem, I'm not afraid of hard work," I said.

"Yeah, yeah tiger get some rest. I'll come wake you when there's food. Anything you don't like on pizza?"

"Anchovies," I said without hesitation. She nodded and turned closing the door behind her. I dropped my bag and crawled into the bed, wrapping my arms around one of the pillows as I got comfortable.

Chapter 9

A Love That's So Demanding (11,12,13)

Chapter 11

(Frank's POV)

It's been a month since she left. We've done everything we could think of to find her. I'm still looking. Travis on the other had, got fed up, said that if she didn't want to be found we should let her go. He said it in frustration, I know he couldn't have meant it. But every since he's had that girl Michelle staying nights here. She's all too happy to oblige.

I sat on the couch waiting for Travis to come home. It had been killing me that I was the reason that she left. I had to tell Travis tonight. I'd packed my bags

and made arrangements to stay with Gerard at his place, I'd told him the whole story and he said he understood. I knew he did I don't know how he understood, but he did. It was almost like he knew something about this that I didn't.

The door opened and Travis walked in, Michelle hot on his trail: God I hated her. "Travis I need to talk to you." he turned from his original course and sat down on the lounger. Michelle sat down on his lap and started to nibble on his neck. My stomach started to turn. "Alone."

"Babe, go warm up the bed for me." she obediently got up and left, leaving us in the living room alone. He would never have gotten away with that if that had been Non, I smiled at the thought. "Did you hear from Non?" he said as soon as the door closed.

"No, its about why Non left," his face fell.

"Yeah?" I started to play with my hands, he was going to kick my butt and I deserved each blow.

"I know why she left."

"I do too." I looked up in surprise as he rushed on "It was a mistake, I know. I was drunk and I think she drugged me. But when I woke up the morning after. I came home I thought she would be at work and I could clean up and she would never know."

"What?" I was instantly pissed off at him. I didn't have the right to be I know, but I was. He'd cheated on Non. "With who?" he simply motioned toward his room. "Michelle! You know Non hates her, of all the girls you chose the one girl Non is insecure about? What the hell is wrong with you."

"I'm sorry Frank, I didn't think she would find out." now I didn't feel bad at all about what I was about to tell him. In fact I hoped he would start a fight with me.

"Screw you Travis, you know now I'm glad that I get to tell you that she beat you to the punch. She's been cheating on you for almost a year now. That's about how long you've been treating her like crap."

"What?" he rushed me pinning me against the wall, I didn't make a move to defend myself. "With who

Frank?" he said it like he already knew the answer but just needed to hear the words.

"With me, you know the funniest part. We broke it off two months before she left. The exact day you sc..." before I could finish what I was going to say his fist connected with my jaw. I was a little dazed, but recovered with a counter attack, punching him in the stomach, and I wasn't finished. He'd hurt her for so long. So many nights she cried thinking he was cheating, I was almost positive that that wasn't his first time cheating on her. I just didn't have the proof. As he was doubled over in pain I punched him in the face as hard as I could. His nose gushed blood, "I'm moving out." I said out of breath and left out the door. My lip was bleeding, but other than that I was fine. Just goes to show that size doesn't always matter.

Chapter 12

(Travis's POV)

I sat there on the floor as Michelle ran around looking for something to help stop my nose from bleeding. I can't believe she cheated on me first. She knew I wasn't in love with her anymore, so I was

right all along. It's still my fault though cause as much as I hate to admit it. She and I were over a long time before now. I should have ended it. I knew she wouldn't. She wouldn't want to hurt me.

(Flashback)

"So Frank, what's the story with you and Non? Are you going to try and get with her?" I'd wanted to know this for a long time to see if he liked her. I didn't want to step on his toes if he did. That would mess up our friend ship and no girl was worth that.

"I don't know, I don't think so."

"You don't like her or anything?"

"No I think of her as a little sister."

"So I can ask her out for this Friday night right?" he hesitated for a moment.

"On one condition, she's been through a lot. You have to promise that you will never hurt her." He said. "I'm serious if you don't plan to really commit to her for a long time, then don't even start anything with her."

"Frank, honestly I've never felt like this before. I mean when she smiles, or laughs I...sorry I'm starting to sound like a wuss."

"No, you better feel that way about her if you gonna start anything with her."

"So where is she now?"

"She's probably at her locker waiting for me."

"Okay, give me ten minutes than come ok, and thanks man."

(End Flashback)

I should be pissed, or hurt, but all I want right now is a warm body to spend the night with. Michelle came over with a wash cloth and started to clean up the blood. I pushed her hand away and pulled her into a deep kiss. Maybe Frank was right maybe I was trying to hurt her. To make her leave cause honestly I really don't like this chick. "This will be the last night she stays here, but that can wait till morning." I thought as I carried her back to my bed room.

(Nonnie's POV)

I woke up and made a bee-line for the bathroom. This morning sickness was really starting to ware on me, fortunately I was almost finished with my first trimester and that meant the morning sickness would stop. After losing most of what I had for dinner last night, I brushed teethe and took a shower. When I came out I heard voices. I headed for the living room. The guys were here.

Ray was dating this guy named William Beckett, and he had a band. They called themselves The Academy Is. It consisted of William Beckett of course, Adam Siska, Andy Mrotek but for some reason everyone called him "The Butcher", Michael Chislett, and Mike Carden. They could almost always be found with another band called Fall Out Boy, which consisted of Andy Hurley, Joe Trohman, Pete Wentz, and Patrick Stump. Today was no different as I entered the living room they were all there talking and making plans for tonight. Danea and I had been staying here for a month, she had gotten a job. I'd tried to get one, but no one would hire me due to my current state. Ray and Danea both talked it over and said they would help me and the baby until after he or she was born.

I don't know what I would do with out them. I'd told the girls not to tell them about the baby just yet. It would just be weird to me for them to know.

"Hey Non, so tonight we are going to see them in concert then going to the after party, and you are coming with us." Ray said sitting on Bill's lap.

"Oh I am?" I said I hadn't been very good company to any of them. I wondered why they wanted to hang out with me.

"Yes, you are." Danea said walking over to me Ray did the same and they pulled me back into my room. "You are not going to just sit around here mourning the loss of your old life."

"That's easy for you to say, you weren't happy with your old life. I was."

"No you weren't your boyfriend was cheating on you and you were using his best friend to get back at him." Ray said.

"That's not true. Travis wasn't cheating on me and I wasn't using Frank...I ...I..."

"You what loved him?"

"Yes I loved him." They had no right to bring this up. "I wasn't using Frank; I don't know what that whole thing was. It just felt right." Tears were coming to my eyes.

"Look I'm sorry but you can't live in the past. It's been a month and you have barely left this apartment. I've kept my word and haven't told the guys anything about you. Just that you are a friend who's going to be staying with me, but I don't like to keep secrets from my boyfriend or my friends." She wrapped her arms around me.

"Okay, I'll go out." I caved as usual.

"Yes." Danea said running out into the living room, a bunch of hoops and hollers of joy came from the room. I walked back into the room and they cheered some more. I couldn't help but laugh. "Was that a smile?"

"Hey don't start," I sat down on the couch in between Patrick and Pete.

"So what are we going to do till time for our show?" Pete asked, he seemed like the type that couldn't stay in one spot for too long.

"Starbucks." They all said at the same time.

"Starbucks it is." Pete said getting up. He turned and offered me his hand, and smiled. My face fell when I saw that smile, it reminded me of Frank. He didn't move his hand even though I'm sure he saw my face fall. I took his hand and he helped me up. I felt a little underdressed they were all wearing skinny jeans and cool band t's. I was wearing a pair of sweat pants and a shirt that was two sizes too big, I tried to ignore it and just got into the car with Bill, Ray, and Mike and Sisky. Danea rode with Pete, Patrick, Andy and Joe.

Chapter 13

(Danae's POV)

I got into the backseat of Patrick's car and Joe and Pete got in pushing me into the middle. I didn't mind that we were squeezed into such a tight space. I moved a little closer to Pete.

"So what's up with your friend Non?" Pete said "She looked at me all weird when I tried to help her up." I took a deep breath I was about to break the promise that I had made to Non. Why cause I could tell that they were curious and I didn't want them to mess with her. She has had enough heart ache from men.

"Look, I don't know if your interested in her or not, but leave her alone. She's had a few bad experiences and she doesn't need a guy from a band. She needs a business man who doesn't have to stay out all night at gigs and whose ready to settle down and raise a kid." I didn't mean to say that last part, about the kid. I hoped none of them caught on. If they did Non is going to kill me.

"Look don't worry I was asking for someone else not myself, and I am a business man." he said his smile made me melt. "I'm personally more interested in hearing about you." he said putting his arm around me. Not only was he cute he was just my type the bad boy of the group, I must have died and gone to heaven.

(Nonnie's POV)

Ten minutes later we arrived at Starbucks. It really did feel good to be out of the house. Everyone was in a good mood, laughing and joking around. I walked up to the counter Danea had slipped me about forty bucks before we left the house so the guys wouldn't see and I wouldn't be embarrassed. "I'll have a Tall Mocha Frappacino," I said.

"Actually make that a hot chocolate and a chai tea. Both tall please." Andy had come up behind me and changed my order. I looked at him like he was crazy. His long red hair fell loosely around his face. He was different from the other guys I could tell.

"Excuse me, but I think I ordered what I wanted." I said letting the Baltimorean in me show. He took a step closer to me.

"Caffeine is bad for the baby." he whispered. My mouth fell open; I stood there stunned as he paid for the drinks.

"How did you know?" I found my voice as we sat at a table away from everyone else.

"Well, really it was a combination of things. 1. Whenever we come over you are sleeping. 2. I heard you in the bathroom this morning throwing up I was waiting to get in. 3. Something that Danea said in the car." I was going to kill her. He rushed on "But she didn't mean to say it and if I hadn't been paying attention to everything else I wouldn't have caught it in the first place." I took a deep breath.

"So are you going to tell everyone else?"

"Not unless you want me too," he said I looked into his eyes, he was so cute. He was the exact opposite of Travis and Frank. I was attracted to him yes, but I couldn't think of those things right now. I was going to be a mother soon; I had to think of what was best for the baby.

"Please don't and please don't watch everything I eat and stuff. The only habit that I have that's bad for the baby you just spoiled." We both laughed at that.

"Okay, I promise to only look out for the food you eat here, deal?"

"Okay deal." I said standing up everyone was finished ordering and we all piled into the cars and headed back to Ray's house.

****

I looked at myself in the mirror. My hair was swept up into a messy bun, with two chopsticks holding it in place and a few curly tendrils falling around my face. The girls had insisted on taking me shopping saying that there was no way I was going to go out with them again the way I looked this morning. They bought me a few pairs of jeans and then a couple of band t's with a hoodie. I was wearing a black fitted T that showed off my cures and hid the small bulge that was my baby. I also had on a pair of boot cut jeans. Nothing too special, but it made me feel like the old me.

We piled into Ray's car. The guys were already at the venue. When we got there it was already crowded we pushed our way to the front of the crowed just as Bill and the rest of The Academy Is took the stage. They opened up with a song called "Neighbors." they were pretty good. I was definitely going to enjoy this; I

hadn't been to a show since, well since before I graduated high school. He transitioned into another song called Black Mamba; they did four other songs and then introduced Fall Out Boy. The crowed went wild; it was amazing they started playing a song called "Sugar We're Going Down". It was really good I watch Andy from the audience, he was killing those drums, his hair flying all over the place and he wasn't wearing a shirt so I could see all his tattoos. I was in awe of him. Then they started to play this song called "Dance, Dance" the crowed started to go wild and nearby a mosh pit started.

With the crowed surging this way and that somehow I got pushed into the mosh pit. Fist were flying everywhere I heard Ray and Danea yelling for them to stop long enough for me to out, I struggled to get to their voices but everything was moving too fast. Then the unthinkable happened someone landed a very hard blow to my stomach. I doubled over in pain. I heard the drums drop from the music, then slowly the rest of the band stopped playing and the crowed calmed down, I felt a warm liquid going down my leg. Someone lifted me off my feet once I

was in their arms I was able to tell it was Andy. He carried me out to Ray's Car. He told me not to look down. I was too scared to look anyway. I had a feeling what that wetness was though.

As tears started to flow down my cheeks we drove to the hospital. They rushed me to the back. I looked at the faces of the doctors I could tell the news wasn't good, and I was in there all alone they wouldn't allow anyone who wasn't family to come in the room. Finally after a few pains my baby was born. I was only about three months along so it was impossible for the baby to survive. They pumped me full of drugs, and I began to drift off to sleep, but not before seeing someone come into the room. They brushed the hair away from my face. The messy bun had fallen a long time ago. I opened my eyes just enough to see that it was Andy. He was still topless. He leaned in and gave me a kiss on the cheek. "Get some rest." He said.

"I want Frank." I mumbled as a tear escaped my eye, then I did fall asleep.

Chapter 10

A Love That's So Demanding (14,15)

Chapter 14

(Frank's POV)

It had been a month since I'd heard or seen Travis, two months and three weeks, since I'd seen Non. Yeah I've kept count, but it seemed like no one cared. I mean everyone's lives went on. My band was doing great, in fact we were leaving for our first tour in the morning. We would kick it off in L. A. Travis, Non and I had always wanted to go there. To think I would be the first one to make it there. Everything just felt wrong with out Non here to say how great it all was. She was the only person who had ever

encouraged me to pursue my music, I'd always promised that when I made it big I would remember her and Travis. I'd heard that Travis's band was going on tour as well. I hoped we wouldn't run into each other, I couldn't be held accountable for what I did to him should we meet.

I finished packing my things and laid down on the couch. Staying with the way brothers wasn't bad at all. I did have to get a job for a week or so. Then we got offered this slot on tour and none of us wanted to pass it up. I should be happy, I mean I am happy I just miss my best friend.

(Travis's POV)

I turned over in my bunk, we had a show in twenty-four hours and I couldn't sleep. Michelle wrapped her arms around me from behind. I'd told her to leave that morning and she did, but later on that day she showed up and well then she wouldn't leave. She'd grown on me.

So when we heard we were going on tour she just naturally assumed that I was taking her, she quit her job and showed up with a plane ticket. I couldn't tell

her no, so I just let her come. We were in L. A. I was lonely even with her and the rest of the band. Matt is the only one who knew the whole story. He said we were all wrong, and needed to get over it. He said that he thought that Non and Frank should be together, and that I should give them my blessing. We fought about that, I loved Non. I missed having her lying next to me, and let's face it she was so much better in bed than Michelle.

That's not all I miss about her though, I miss that way she used to look up at me like I was her world, I miss the way her eyes twinkled when she sang. You know that old saying absence makes the heart grow fonder. Well, it's never been more true than here in this instance.

Chapter 15

(Nonnie's POV)

I bought the shot glass to my mouth and let the liquid burn my throat going down. "Give me another." I said to the bar tender, his name was Chris he was happily married a pretty nice guy. We've gotten to know each other pretty well over the past few nights. It'd been

about a week or so since I lost the baby and well yeah that's all. I drank down the shot he sat in front of me and then I heard music playing it was a ballad I'd heard it before. "I Wish I Wasn't" (it's an R&B song) by Heather Headly. I got up and started to move my body to the music.

A few minutes into the song I felt someone's arm snaked around me. I didn't stop dancing, who ever it was started to move with me, pulling me back against his body. Finally as the song was ending I turned around to see whom I was dancing with he was taller than me by about a half foot, he had curly black hair that framed his face and icy blue eyes. "How bout we get out of here?"

"And where would we go," I said flirtatiously.

"I can show you then if you wanna leave you can." I stepped back from him and went over to Chris.

"Do you know this guy?" I asked.

"Yeah he's a good guy as far as I can tell, just be careful you had a lot to drink." I had every intention of ignoring his advice tonight.

"Alright lets go." I said he took my hand and lead me out of the bar. We walked for a while I learned that his name was Clark and that he was some other things that I didn't really care about. We walked up to a club. My feet stopped as we came to it. It was the same venue that the guys had played at.

"I just gotta drop something off here, come on." He grabbed my hand and as we went in he nodded at the bouncer. I wanted to run the other way but I couldn't. I could hear the band that was playing as he pulled me further into the club, there was no turning back now. I tried to ignore the crowd surging around me as he pulled me deeper into the crowd. The band played on, I decided to concentrate on the voice of the singer; it was calming.

Finally the song ended and the crowd calmed down. The singer was talking. I looked up to see the face of the man who had stopped what I could only describe as a panic attack. He was a skinny guy with long black hair that, he was wearing tight black skinny jeans and what looked like a bulletproof vest. They were about to start another song, this one was called

"House of Wolves" He waited patiently for one of their guitarist to get up off the floor. "Come Frank, they are ready to..." I didn't hear the rest of what he said cause he turned away from the mic. The guitarist got up. I stood stock-still. I was Frank, my Frank.

(Janay's POV)

I untangled myself from Pete's arms and made my way across the hall. We were taking turns checking on Nonnie, everyone was worried about her she wouldn't eat and she slept all day and all night. Well we assumed she slept all night usually we stop checking on her after 11 pm, but tonight I couldn't sleep I stood outside her door for a moment. Then someone tapped me on my shoulder scaring the living hell out of me.

"Its me," Andy said. He was also staying and keeping his eye on Nonnie, he seemed to care about her a lot. "What are you doing?"

"Just checking on her, she still won't eat or anything. I think we are going to have to take her back to New York."

"Why? What's in New York?" I told him the whole story even the parts that didn't paint Non in the best light, but I think he deserved to know what he was getting himself into.

"Wow," he said. "So you weren't playing when you said she'd been though a lot."

"No I wasn't she doesn't blame either of the guys for it, she blames herself. I don't wanna take her back to them, but they are probably the only ones that can help her."

"I...I could try."

"Sorry Andy. I don't think you can help her, but my mother always said, "Nothing beats a failure but a try". Why don't you check on her, I'll just go get a cup of water." I left him at her bedroom door and went into the kitchen. Then I heard him running.

"She's gone." He said running out the front door. "Where would she go?" he yelled back.

"Andy, stop." He stopped and turned to look at me. "We don't know where she would go, lets get everyone else and we can all search." He came back

into the house and we woke everyone up. Ray was not happy, but she and Bill got up after I explained what was going on. Then we piled into separate cars and drove off in different directions hoping to find her.

Chapter 11

A Love That's So Demanding (16)

Chapter 16

(Frank's POV)

I got up off the floor. This was the only time I had some peace, when I was performing. I just let my fingers do the work they got all my stress out. This was the first show of our tour, I was surprised that we had such a nice turn out. I looked out over the crowd, a face stood out. She was the only one not dancing, the only one not smiling, our eyes locked and she turned and ran for the door. Leaving some guy looking very bewildered. I dropped my guitar and jumped off stage. It couldn't be her, I mean she...

she looked like a ghost of her old self. I could hear Gee calling me back, but I couldn't let her get away. As I burst though the doors the cold air hit me. A shiver went though my body, the sweat from the performance didn't help.

I looked down both sides of the street and I saw her stumbling down the away from the club. I took off running she hadn't gotten far. "Non?" I said as I came up to her, she looked up at me. Her eyes were sunken in, like she hadn't slept in days. She looked like she had loss some weight and her hair had grown a bit but it was up in a messy bun that looked half done.

I didn't care though I pulled her into a hug. I couldn't help it. "No," she whispered I could smell alcohol on her breath.

"No what?" I said walking her back toward the club. I saw that Gerard and the rest of the band had run out behind me and were trying to figure out what to do.

"Don't make me go back in there." she seemed to dread the thought of going back into the venue.

"Frank what's..." Gerard ran over to us.

"Gerard, I..."

"Look we'll just call this show off, okay." he said with an understanding grin. "Its nice to finally meet you Nonnie." she didn't even make eye contact she just nodded.

"Thanks," I swept Nonnie up into my arms and carried her to our waiting tour bus. She nuzzled closer into my neck. I heard her breathing slow, I knew she had fallen asleep. I laid her into my bunk and crawled in after her. Pulling her close. I watched her sleeping. She looked so peaceful.

(Nonnie's POV)

I woke up to a pitch-black room, someone was holding me I could feel their breath on the back of my neck. Then it all came rushing back to me. Chris, Clark, and ... and Frank. I shot up hitting my head on the ceiling. "What? What happened?" Frank said shooting up and hitting his head. My head was pounding, my stomach was sick and I couldn't sit up. He pulled back a curtain to reveal that we were on a tour bus. I shut my eyes.

"Close it." I said, my mouth felt like a thousand cotton balls were jammed in and my breath smelled terrible.

"Non, I can't believe he did this to you." he closed the curtain, "You never used to drink. I know why you left." My mind flew in a bunch of different directions, how did he know? Who told him? Did he get in touch with Janay some how? "And I don't blame you."

"But..."

"Shush you are with me now, I'm not going to let anyone else hurt you. I'm not going to let you run away from me again. I..." I didn't know what he was talking about, but the idea of being with him again was something I desperately wanted. I don't know why I didn't just tell him the truth in the first place. Oh yeah.

"Where's Travis?" I said interrupting him. I felt him stiffen next to me. "Are you going to tell him you found me?"

"Screw him." Where was this coming from?

"Frank his your best friend."

"No, he's not. After you left he told me about the reason you left."

"So he knows too?"

"How could he not know. Anyway I told him about you and me."

"Frank why would you do that, hold on what?" if he was just telling him about the two of us, that means he thought the baby was his.

"I'm sorry, but I thought I was the reason you left and I wanted him to know the truth, but then he told me about him and Michelle..."

"Michelle what does she have to do with all this?"

"He cheated on you with her..." it must have dawned on him that I didn't know what he was talking about. "Wait I thought that was the reason you left." I could feel the tears starting to fall. He did cheat on me, I mean I knew it but I didn't know it. I didn't want to believe it. "If that wasn't why you left, then why?" this just made me cry even more, thinking about the child that I'd lost. "Who did this to you? Tell me." He was yelling now and all I could do was sob. "Non,

please tell me." He said this in a quiet voice while pulling me into his arms. I took in his smell. This was the end of the line I had to tell him. I waited until I got myself together enough to talk and took a deep breath.

"Frank, do you remember the day I left,"

"Yeah you were really sick,"

"I found out...I found out that I..."

"Its okay Non please just tell me."

"I was pregnant." He opened the curtain again I tried not to flinch and met his green eyes with my brown ones. "I was pregnant, and I didn't want to explain to my boyfriend that his best friend might be the father," I kept going watching the emotions run across his face. "So I left hoping that the two of you would go on without me around, as if I'd never been around." His hand went to my stomach and the tears started to flow from my eyes again only this time I cried silently.

"You said you were pregnant it hasn't been nine months. What happened, I know you well enough to

know that you wouldn't get an abortion. So what happened?"

"I lost the baby Frank. I was at a show, that same venue we were at last night. There was a mosh pit and I got sucked into it I tried to get out, but then someone hit me and I started bleeding. It was all my fault Frank I knew I shouldn't be there. I should have stayed home but..." sobs over took me and I couldn't finish talking.

"No shhh shhh its not your fault you didn't know that was going to happen." He held me tighter. I cried myself back to sleep.

Chapter 12

A Love That's So Demanding (17,18)

Chapter 17

(Frank's POV)

I let her sleep for awhile, but we had to leave for the next city in an hour. I wanted her to come with us, but I needed her to agree to come. Who ever it was that was taking care of her wasn't doing a very good job. I wasn't going to let anything else bad happen to her. I shook her shoulder and she turned over and looked at me. "Come on I want you to meet the band," I grabbed her hand and helped her out of the bunk.

"I don't think that's such a good idea, I look a mess." She said, and I'm not going to lie she looked like she'd

had a rough night. I could tell by the way she kept squinting that she was still a little sensitive to the light, and her hangover wasn't completely gone.

"Here," I said handing her a pair of Gerard's sun glasses "They don't care,"

"Well I do, tell you what. Were are they now?"

"Across the street at Starbucks,"

"Okay you take me home and let me get cleaned up okay?" I nodded and she lead the way to her place. When we walked up her street there were police cars all over the place. She took off running for the building, I followed her. "Janay! Ray!" she screamed running into the opened apartment.

"Nonnie Woods, where the hell have you been?!" the light skinned tall one said. She was scary.

"What?" Non looked around the room everyone was waiting for her to answer. A red headed guy came out of the group and pulled Non into a hug, I instantly got jealous. I wanted to tell him to get off of her, but no one even seemed to notice I was there.

"Where have you been all night? I've been worried sick." the guy said.

"I'm fine Andy, I just went out for a drink is all."

"Non you don't drink." He said as if he's known her for years.

"Officers sorry to waste your time, and thank you so much for coming so quickly." The short one with blood red streaks in the front of her hair said.

"Okay you all have a good day." The officers left and everyone's eyes followed them to the door where I was standing.

"Frank?" the short one, said.

"That would be me." I walked up to her and stuck out my hand, she looked at it like it was diseased. "And you are?"

"I'm Janay, this is Ray, that is Andy, Pete and Bill." She motioned to each person Andy still hadn't let go of Non and she wasn't pulling away. "What are you doing here?" her voice was just dripping with the fact

that she didn't like me, well she didn't have to worry cause I didn't like her either.

"My band is on tour, we started it yesterday and LA was the first show." I said, "Non can we hurry up I gotta talk to you about some stuff." I was a little out numbered here and I definitely didn't feel welcomed.

"Yeah, I'm just going to take a two minute shower okay." she ran off down the hall smiling. The two girls followed her leaving me with three very cranky men.

"So your in a band?" Bill said he was the tallest one and if I didn't know better I would have mistaken him for a girl.

"Yeah I play guitar."

"Well, I'm the lead singer in my band, Pete in plays bass, and Andy plays drums in their band."

"Oh cool." I walked further into the house. Andy looked like he wanted to take my head off and I think I knew why. "So, you are with the girl named Ray right." I said to Bill.

"Yup."

"And you must be with Janay," I pointed at Pete, he just nodded, looks like he was going to back up Andy should he try anything. "Oh that's cool." I said leaving it at that. I knew it would kill him to think that I knew weather or not they were together.

"So how long are you in town?" Andy asked.

"We leave in a few hours." I said giving myself more time than I actually had.

"What's the name of your band?" Pete asked.

"My Chemical Romance." I saw his face change I like he recognized the name. "You ever heard of us?"

"Nope." he said, they were trying to scare me off, but I wasn't going to let that happen. I wasn't going to back down the only person that was right for Non was me.

"Well one day you will, probably soon. What's the name of your band?"

"Our band is called Fall Out Boy," Pete motioned to Bill, "His is called The Academy Is."

"Yeah I like those," I wasn't sucking up their names were just as random as ours, I really did like them. Finally Nonnie came storming out of the back. "Non what happened?"

"Nothing lets just go." she hadn't changed or anything.

" You can borrow some of my clothes" I said wrapping my arms around her waist and walking behind her. I knew that she really wanted to change but something had upset her and now she just wanted to leave. I was fine with that. "Okay bye nice to meet you all." I yelled back into the house. We headed back to the bus. .

Chapter 18

(Nonnie's POV)

As I walked out the front door with Frank's arms around me I thought about what the girls had said back in my room. They were wrong they had to be. They thought that Travis and Frank were in this whole thing together, using me as a toy. Frank would never do that, and it pissed me off that they would

say anything like that. I knew I wouldn't have enough time to change so I just left. Frank was all that mattered to me.

We arrived back at the tour bus. I heard what sounded like a fight, things falling and being thrown. "Gerard no fair." Frank opened the door, and I hesitated. I still looked a mess, they were going to think this was the way I've always been. Frank stepped back down from the bus and grabbed my hand reassuringly. As I stepped onto the top step, Frank pulled me down onto the floor of the bus, and something went flying past my head.

"Hey, guys," Frank screamed, "Can we act like adults for ten minutes?"

"As if you could talk," a man with a huge curly fro, said.

"Well, Ray," said another guy with glasses and short black hair. "That might change now that he's got a girlfriend."

"She's not his girlfriend," the guy who said hi to me last night, I tried to remember his name; Gerald, "Hi

Nonnie, right?" he said offering me his hand. I took it and stood up.

"Yeah that's me, your Gerald?"

"Close, its Gerard, that's my brother Mikey. That's our other guitarist Ray, some where around here there's Bob."

"He's back in his bunk." Mikey said.

"Yeah, well tell him to get his butt out here to meet Nonnie."

"Bob get your butt out here and meet Nonnie." Mikey yelled not moving an inch. I laughed at the way Gerard looked at him, like he was going to beat the crap out of him for not going back there to wake up Bob.

"No that's okay I'll just meet him later I'm sure he's tired after you guy's concert last night. Which you guy's killed. By the way." I wasn't saying it just cause Frankie was in the band, I was saying it cause Gerard had a voice that was calming and their music was relaxing enough to keep me in that room long enough to get me and Frank back together.

"So how did you know we were playing there?" he said,

"Yeah I was wondering that too," Frank added.

"Well I didn't. I was at a bar and ...well it doesn't really matter cause I got there and found you." Wow I was about to tell them about Clark and how I would have ended up sleeping with a guy I barely knew. That wouldn't have gone over well at all.

"Uh, Non we are leaving in about 20 min for the next city," Frank said, my heart skipped a beat.

"But...you just got here."

"Yeah, and our manager is really mad about how we called off last nights show." Ray said.

"Shut up Ray," Frank said, they'd called off the show because of me last night, I was causing trouble with Frank and his friends again.

"Maybe we should leave them alone for a minute," Gerard said to the others. They all got off the bus.

"Non, its not your fault I called off the show last night, okay," he must have been reading my mind.

"And we don't have to be apart again." Where was he going with this? "You... you could come on tour with us, I mean I don't wanna lose you again, you're my best friend. They haven't been taking very good care of you and..." his voice trailed off.

"Frank, no one is supposed to take care of me, I'm supposed to be a grown woman who can take care of her self." I took a deep breath, I wanted to go on tour with him, but he was still looking at me as though we were friends. I was positive that I wanted more than "just friends," with him. Everything just seemed to feel right when I was with him.

"Non, I'm supposed to take care of you, that's my role as your friend, your family," he said with that smile. "Remember I told you once my band got big I would take care of you. Well we are on our way to being big, I'm going to start living up to that promise now, but in order for me to do this you have to come on tour with us, in," he looked at his watch. "Ten minutes,"

"Let's go get my stuff," I said we could work out the rest of our relationship stuff later, for now I was just going to be with my Frankie.

Chapter 13

A Love That's So Demanding (19, 20)

Chapter 19

(Janay's POV)

We stayed up all night looking for her and she just comes in like nothing ever happened with Frank on her arm. Nonnie was just going to go hang out with someone who treated her like a toy. Playing with her emotions, Ray and I both tried to warn her, but she wouldn't listen in fact she got mad at us. I watched her leave with Frank and Pete came to my side. I looked over at Andy, I could see on his face that he was heart broken. I took a deep breath and sat down on the couch, if she hadn't lost the baby, none of this

would be happening she and Andy would be working on getting together and grrr. She should be with Andy, he was stable, he was caring, and he wasn't the type who would sleep with his best friend's girlfriend that's for sure.

"So what just happened back there?" Bill asked Ray, she was pissed too.

"She's going to get herself into trouble again, unless we can get her away from him." Ray said.

"I'm in," Andy said.

"How are we going to do that," it was hopeless she was a grown woman, she knew what she wanted and I knew from the beginning that it was Frank. I just hopped that she would have some sense knocked into her and she would choose Andy. "Let's just leave her alone, he leaves in a couple of hours and she will go back to being herself. Okay," right when the words left my mouth a feeling of foreboding came over the whole room. Something told me it wouldn't be that easy.

The door opened and there she stood with a huge smile. She took a timid step into the house and Frank and a four other guys, walked in behind her. "Guys this is My Chemical Romance, Frank's band," she paused and took a nervous breath. "I'm...going on tour with them, they came to help me get my things."

"What?" I said.

"Yeah I don't have a lot of time to explain we have to go, look at the bright side now you get the big room." She said trying to make light of the situation.

"No your not going," I said as if I could stop her.

"Sorry when did you give birth to me? Cause you seem to think that you're my mother." She said I was taken aback. Her voice was dripping with attitude I hadn't seen since, well since before we left New York.

"I...I wasn't trying to be your mother. I was just trying to look out for you. Like I have been for the past couple of months."

"I don't care you guys have been acting like I'm some child who was lost at the mall and you were gracious

enough to adopt me. Well no I have a family. There he is standing right there at the door."

"So what us paying for everything since we left New York hasn't meant thing, did we make you get a crappy job to pay for your doctor's bills. No Ray and I split the bills cause we knew how hard it was going to be for you to get a job. After you lost the baby, did we put our hands out for the money no, cause we knew you were hurting and we wanted you to be okay. If that isn't family what is?" I said suddenly out of breath, she didn't have an answer. Andy stood up and walked over to her.

"Non, can we talk?" she looked over her shoulder as if asking permission. I didn't see any of the guys say or do anything as an answer.

"Andy, I only have a little bit of time." She looked down at her feet, "Let me show them to my room and then we can go into the kitchen, okay." He nodded and she showed them to her room. Ray stood in the door like a guard dog making sure they left the rooms furniture intact. I was dumbfounded, and

worried about the course my friend was about to take.

Chapter 20

(Nonnie's POV)

I followed Andy into the kitchen. I'd never set out to hurt him, but I could tell by the look on his face that I was about to. Maybe in a different time and place we would have ended up together.

"Don't go."

"Andy," I sighed, "Please don't make me feel bad for wanting to be with the one person who's ever cared about me."

"Do you seriously think that he's the only person that cares for you?" he paused for a response, "Do you know where we spent our night?" another pause, "We spent all last night worried about you." He yelled. This wasn't like him, Andy never yelled.

"I'm sorry that I made you worry, but I've been out every night this week. Nobody noticed how was I supposed to know you guys would check tonight?"

"You kidding me right, Non what were you thinking?" his voice kept getting louder and he was getting angrier by the second. "Do you know what could have happened with you out there drunk by your self?" Frank came into the kitchen.

"Andy right," he said, "Don't yell at her, she made a mistake. So back off."

"Shut up this has nothing to do with you." This was going to go bad really fast if I didn't do something soon. "She doesn't need you, a person who plots with his best friend to have their own personal sex toy down the hall." My breath caught I hadn't told him the whole story, which meant that Janay had broken her promise.

"You don't know what you're talking about." Frank said, I still couldn't say anything. I couldn't believe that she had told him, I turned to the door and walked into the living room where Janay sat with her head on Pete's shoulder.

"Oh so you wanna call yourself my family?" I said in a calm voice, "Family can keep their mouths shut,"

she looked at me like she didn't understand what I was talking about. "How could you tell him?"

"I...I thought he deserved to know what he was getting into," I stood there and let her words sink in.

"What he needed to know that I didn't know who the father of my child was, or that I cheated on my boyfriend with his best friend. Oh or the lie that they planned it that way to use me as a sex toy. You know what forget about it. I'm done." Tears started to fall; " I should never have come here with you." Frank put his arm around me and we walked out of the door the six of us.

(Travis's POV)

"Ladies and Gentlemen this is a new song I just wrote while we were on the road, its about my old girlfriend, I hope you like it." It wasn't a complete lie I had written it about Non, just I'd written it before we left New York.

Once the song was finished I introduced the next band and left the stage. Michelle as usual was standing off to the side waiting with a towel for me to

wipe my sweat with. Matt, Dishashi, and Eric all hate her and ignore her as best they can, but she made it really hard for them. Honestly we hadn't had sex since we left for tour two weeks ago. We were somewhere on the West Coast. I didn't care where we were. I always looked into the audience for Non's face. I would make it all up to her if I could just find her. We would be together, I would forgive her and she, and well I hoped she would forgive me.

I took the towel and I heard her little healed feet running to keep up with my stride. I hated the clacking of her heals it made my skin crawl. I sat at the bar and got a rum and coke. I paid for my drink, not asking Michelle if she wanted one or not and headed back to the bus. I wasn't in the mood to party, I hadn't been in a long time. I sat in the common area and turned on the TV. Michelle stood in front of the TV. She started to do a strip tease. I moved my head to the side so I could look around her and watch TV. She started to do a lap dance. First let me point out that she was by now half naked and in the common area of the bus. Any one of my band mates could

have come onto the bus at any moment and gotten an eyeful.

I felt myself starting to respond to her, even though she disgusted me I was still a man. She grabbed my hand and lead me back to our bunk. God I hate her.

Chapter 14

A Love That's So Demanding (21, 22)

Chapter 21

(Frank's POV)

I looked down at Non she was sleeping. I knew I was getting on her last nerve, but she wasn't eating and I wasn't going to let her get away with it. I made sure she ate three square meals. She was starting to gain back her weight and she was sleeping like a normal person. I could tell she was still a little hurt that she wasn't talking to her friends from LA. She didn't know it but I'd given our managers cell phone number to her friend Ray, the one person who wasn't watching the drama in the kitchen. We had an

understanding, if I let anything happen to Non, she would hunt me down and kill me. I was okay with that.

I finished pitting on my makeup for the show and woke her up; she hadn't been to any of the performances since the one in la. She said she couldn't take the crowds. Tonight though I convinced her to come with us. She would be standing off to the side of the stage away from the crowd.

Our relationship had regressed to the friendship we had in school. I wanted more though I just didn't know how to approach her about it. She got up and went to change her clothes. I wondered what she was putting on as I heard swearing and the sound of things falling coming from the small bathroom stall.

When she came out my mouth fell open. She wore a pair of black skinny jeans and a white and red plaid corset that laced up the front. She was wearing a thick line of eyeliner and her hair fell down straitened around her face. She looked gorgeous. I was going to have to keep an eye on her tonight.

We headed into the venue it was already crowded. I was so happy that Non was finally going to see us perform a whole show. I felt her tense up as we made our way though the crowed. I pulled her closer to me and wrapped her arms around my waist. Finally she relaxed as we left the crowed and settled into the dressing room. She sat on the couch watching all the bands run around getting ready. When it was time for us to perform I grabbed her hand and we walked to the stage. I left her on the side of the stage and went out and picked up my guitar. Gerard introduced the first song and I could see Non out of the corner of my eye dancing to it the whole time. Then I got an idea.

"Gerard," I yelled and came over and I whispered my idea to him he nodded and handed me the mic. Here goes nothing. "Hi I'm frank, this next song we borrowed from Greenday. It's dedicated to my best friend and hopefully after this song my girlfriend Nonnie Woods." I looked over at her she had stopped dancing and was looking incredibly shocked. "I'm not going to let you slip through my fingers again." Then

I handed the mic back to Gerard and we started to play Only of You.

I wish I could tell you

But the words would come out wrong

Oh if you only knew

The way I felt for so long

I know that we're world's apart

But I just don't seem to care

These feelings in my heart

Only with you I want to share

The first time I caught a glimpse of you

Then all my thoughts were only of you

I hope that when time goes on

You will think the same about me

Many nights awake I lie

I only wish that you could see

I know that we're only friends

I hope this feeling never ends

If I could only hold you

It's the only thing I want to do.

After the song was over I looked over to the side of the stage and Non was crying. We played one more song and then Gerard introduced the next band and we left the stage. "So Non what do you say?" I said walking over to her.

"Frank...I" she looked down at her feet and my heart dropped. Then she took a step forward and put her hand on the back of my neck pulling my lips to meet her's. I wrapped my arms around her body and her arms went around my neck. "Who could say no to Greenday?" she said braking the kiss.

"It's about time you two made it official." Gerard yelled over the music from the bar.

Chapter 22

(Nonnie's POV)

We pulled back from the kiss. After Gerard ruined the moment. I just smiled at him. As the night started

to wind down we all headed back to the bus tomorrow they had another show in another town.

I went into the small bathroom stall and changed my clothes, swearing and falling all over the place due to the moving of the bus. Finally after almost killing myself, I came out in a pair of lose pajama pants and a tank top. All the guys looked away from me accept for Frank.

"Did I miss something?" I asked Frank as I climbed into our bunk. He just shook his head and pulled me close. He closed the curtain and started to kiss down my neck moving to the spot where my shoulder and neck met. Causing me to groan loudly. Then it dawned on me that there were four grown men listening to us. That's what was going on. "Frank." I whispered making him stop with my tone. "I know you don't think that we are going to have sex with your band mates listening."

"Babe they can't hear us."

"Yes, we can," Bob said from the bunk above us. We all burst out laughing my cheeks were burning like crazy. I pulled Frank in for a deep kiss.

"Goodnight Babe," I pulled away from the kiss before he got too into it and heard Mikey yell.

"Tease."

"Don't be jealous, I'm sure one day you will get a tease all for yourself." Gerard said.

"Goodnight guys." Frank said I could, tell by his voice he was a little frustrated.

"I'll make it up to you next time we stay in a hotel,"

"I'm going to hold you to that." He said and we both closed our eyes and went to sleep.

****

I woke up the next morning to an empty bunk. I pulled back the curtain and came face to face with Ray. "Uh Hi." I said moving my hand in front of my face, I knew my breath had to stink.

"She's awake." He yelled to the front of the bus.

"Tell her what I told you to tell...ugh never mind," Frank yelled back. "Don't get out of bed I'm making you breakfast."

"Aww baby that's sweet, but we can just pick something up around the venue." This whole Frankie cooking thing was a bad idea, he could barely boil water let alone cook a meal.

"Too late, don't move an inch," I looked over at Ray, he had a devilish smile on his face that let me know he knew why I didn't want frank making me breakfast in bed.

"Did you give him this idea?"

"I had nothing to do with it," he said finally ten minutes later Frank showed up with a plate. He held it high so I couldn't see what was on it. I sat up as best I could and he handed me the plate. I gasped when I saw what was on it.

I was a simple fruit salad with strawberries, cantaloupe, watermelon, honeydew melon, and grapes. On the side was a big glob of whipped cream. "Frank?"

"You know I can't cook so I figured I'd try something that required absolutely no cooking what so ever.

Plus I know how much you like fruit." I smiled up at him.

"You know you had me scared right?"

"Yeah,"

"It's not nice to scare your girlfriend Frank," we both looked at each other savoring the first time either of us had referred to me as his girlfriend.

"I'll keep that in mind for future reference." He said bending over and kissing me on the cheek. I quickly ate about half the salad. Frank watched the whole time. I knew he was still worried about my eating and sleeping too much, but I was happier now than I had been in a long time. So I was happy to eat all my food and sleep for normal periods of time. I made a move to get up, " Where do you think your going?" he asked.

"To put this back in the kitchen," it was more like a area set aside for the things you would do in a kitchen it had a sink, a toaster oven, and a coffee maker.

"Please eat some more, I worked so hard on it." I knew he just thought I hadn't eaten enough, but I was seriously about to burst.

"Frankie, I'm full. Honest I couldn't eat another bite if I tried." He looked for a bit trying to read me. He was always able to read me like an open book.

"Okay," he said when he was sure I wasn't lying. He took the plate and walked off. I got up and changed my clothes in the bathroom, brushed my teethe and put my hair up into a ponytail. By the time I was finished we had arrived at the venue, but the show wasn't for a few more hours. So they all decided to watch a scary movie, all of them love horror movies, me not so much. They decided to watch Halloween. I saw about 3/10 of the movie, cause I kept my face hidden in Frank's shirt for the rest. After the movie was over it was time for the show. Frank tried to get me to come with but I wasn't in the mood to brave the crowed. So they left me on the bus. I looked around in vain for something to do. Finally I settled on cleaning the bus.

Those five boys really knew how to make a mess. I started in the common area then made my way back to the bunks. I was careful not to put too many things out of the places that I found them just sort of straiten them up a bit. I wanted every one to still be able to find their things.

I moved on to Gerard's bunk, he had sketches all over the place, I gathered them all together in a pile and started to look at them, there were a few of me, then some of me and Frank sleeping, there were some of Frank just looking at me. Then there were some of Ray and Bob fighting over the TV remote and Mikey playing around with his bass. I smiled down at the sketches; these boys were my new family. They had only known me for a few weeks and yet they all accepted me cause of Frank.

Chapter 15

A Love That's So Demanding (23, 24)

Chapter 23

(Frank's POV)

As we finished up our set I wondered what Non was doing to keep herself busy. There wasn't much that she would like to do on the bus. I didn't stick around to see the next band play their set. I went back to check on her.

I was surprised to see it was spotless, I went looking for Non and found her sound asleep in our bunk. I crawled in and wrapped my arms around her. "Did you do all this?"

"Yes,"

"Why?"

"Cause I was bored." she whispered groggily snuggling closer to me and falling back to sleep. Suddenly I heard the bus door fly open and all the guys came bursting in.

"Non, Frank!" Gerard yelled. I quickly untangled myself from Nonnie's arms and got out of bed.

"Hey keep your voices down," I said barely over a whisper. "She's sleeping."

"Oh thank god you guys are okay." Gerard said.

"There was a terrible accident, some of the band members and crowed got electrocuted we thought you guys were hurt." Ray said out of breath.

"We are both fine, but keep it down Non is sleeping." I repeated.

"Too late I'm up now," Mikey walked over and gave her a hug. "What was that for?"

"We were just a little worried about you guys that's all."

"So how bad is it?" I asked sitting down on the couch.

"Well they won't be able to finish the tour with us. I saw our manager out there on his cell phone trying to find another band to replace them." Bob said.

"Wow that sucks." I said, "They got a while to find one though since we don't have another show until day after tomorrow." they all started looking around. Finally noticing that the bus was clean.

"Frank did you clean?" Ray asked amazed.

"No, Non got bored while we played our show."

"Free of charge?"

"Nope tonight when we get to the hotel you guys let us get one of the rooms to our selves." she said sitting next to me.

"Deal," Gerard said over the protest of the others. The bus driver boarded and drove off toward the hotel. An hour later we arrived, we checked in and the guys split up and went to their rooms. I carried Non and my bags up to the room.

"Remember your promise?" I said as she opened the door to our room.

"Why do you think I made that deal with the guys," she said biting her lip, " And I was hoping you knew what you were getting yourself into." she turned and started to removing her shirt.

"Bring it." I said throwing our bags on the floor and closing the door.

(Travis's POV)

"Gather round," our manager Kevin said "Okay so here's the deal, we've been offered a slot in a tour that's booked solid, with bigger venues. Which means more exposure, but if we take it we have to leave now and we won't have time to do sound check or anything, basically you get there and your first show on the new tour will suck."

"I'm in," Matt said and we all agreed. We boarded the bus and headed to meet up with our new tour. I walked back to my bunk, and opened to curtain. There slept Michelle, if I didn't hate her so much this would be a tender moment me watching her sleep.

All I could think about was the best way to get back into my bed without waking her up. I gave up and decided instead to go sleep on the coach.

"Hey why aren't you in bed?"

"I can't sleep," I said to Disashi as he came and sat next to me.

"I wouldn't be able to sleep with the wicked witch of the east in my bed either"

"No matter what I do she won't go away."

"Have you tried just telling her to leave, and that it's over?"

"No, when ever I try to, I get uh... distracted." he gave me a disbelieving look.

"Look she fine, but she ain't that fine."

"She does this thing with her tongue that makes my toes curl, but that's all I get from her. With Non it was different, she meant something to me. She meant a lot to me. I want her back, I want to find her."

"Did you put out a missing person's report back home?"

"Since she left a note saying that she was leaving and stuff they didn't put much effort into finding her, but it won't hurt to make a few calls."

"And if you are going to be finding your long lost love can we please dump the trash?" he motioned back toward my bunk.

"Yeah I'll break it off in the next city." he got up leaving me to sleep on the couch. Tomorrow the search for Non resumed. I wouldn't stop till I found her this time.

Chapter 24

(Nonnie's POV)

We spent the whole day in that room, we only opened the door for room service. Not even when Bob came screaming "fire" down the hall did we move. We also talked about everything that has happened and what will happened. What could happen. Finally we left the next morning for star bucks and met the guys at the bus. They teased us the whole way to the venue.

When we arrived it was time for them to do their sound check, I waited on the bus for Frank to come back. One of the things we talked about in that room was my fear of crowds. We both agreed that if he was going to do this music thing. He would almost always have a crowd around. So after they did sound check we would go get a quick bit to eat (Frank was going to make me eat). Then we were going to go and watch the new band play their set from the audience; halfway through we would make our way backstage so he could get ready.

Things didn't go according to planned though. We left the bus after they did sound check and walked two blocks to the restaurant that one of the workers at the venue recommended. It was a soul food restaurant I ordered my food and I ate there. Frankie's excuse for not eating was that he was about to go on stage and didn't wanna barf on the crowd. When we looked at the clock we were running late. The new band would be halfway finished their set by the time we got there. It had also started raining and we didn't have an umbrella.

We ran the whole way back and went into the back door. "What happened to you guys?" Mikey asked looking at our soaked clothes.

"We got stuck in the rain." I said I was a little distracted though I could hear the new band playing in the main room and they sounded really good. I could hear a voice it sounded familiar. I had stopped listening to what Frank and the guys were saying. I followed the voice and finally ended up on the side of the stage. The first thing I saw was a tall light skinned girl with long hair, she was wearing a leather mini skirt and a hot pink tube top, with high heals. She was swaying to the music. It started to sink in who I was looking at she hadn't seen me though. I took a step back so she wouldn't.

Then the voice caught my attention again, he was singing a chorus.

My breathing quickened as the song came to an end he was going to come this way. He was going to see me. I turned to run and bumped right into Frank. "Where did you go?" I clung to him and hid my face

in his shirt. "Non what's wrong?" I could hear the worry in his voice. Then I felt him stiffen in my arms.

(Frank's POV)

I watched as Travis came walking toward us. He didn't even realize we were there. I also noticed that he still had Michelle with him. She was just as gross as ever. I held Nonnie tighter. There was no way he was even going to talk to her. Then he saw us.

Chapter 16

A Love That's So Demanding(25)

Chapter 25

(Travis's POV)

I walked off the stage; there stood Michelle as usual with a towel in hand. "We need to talk." I said grabbing her hand; I was going to end this ridiculous relationship now. Then I looked over into my ex-best friend's cold eyes. He wrapped his arms protectively around a small figure who was drenched from head to toe. My breath caught as I realized who it was. "Non?" she didn't move she didn't turn toward me. I dropped Michelle's hand and took a step toward them, they took a step away. "Non," I said taking

another step toward them. That's when the rest of the band came out of the dressing room. There were four of them I'd met them briefly before we rushed onto the stage.

"Hey Frank, we gotta go," the one with a fro said. Frank got a worried look on his face and I saw Non tighten her grip on him. "Non? Is she okay?"

"Yeah, stall for a minute while I take her back to the bus?" Frank said and turned away from me. Michelle walked up to me and put her arms around me from behind. First things first. I turned to look her in the eye.

"Michelle its over, I bought you a plan ticket and there's a cab out front waiting to take you to the airport. I shouldn't have let this get this far." I handed her the ticket, I was surprised that she didn't say anything. I spoke too soon as her face changed it had sunken in.

"Fine, but did you see the way she clung to him?" she let out an evil laugh, I swear she should work for Disney. " She doesn't want you and she never will,"

"That's something that I'm willing to chance. Besides you knew I didn't want you from the start." I turned and walked away. Frank bumped into me on his way past and stopped for a moment.

"Stay away from Non," he said in a threatening tone.

"Or what?"

"You don't wanna know." He said and ran out onto the stage. I headed out to the buses I had to talk to Non. She looked so small and scared. I just wanna make sure she's okay.

(Nonnie's POV)

I climbed into our bunk as Frank left. I know he had to leave but I really wish he could have stayed. Why on earth did the new band have to be Travis's. Frank and I were starting over. The feelings I have right now are so confusing. On the one hand I so pissed off at Travis I could scream, on the other I feel guilty cause I cheated too and it was worse cause it was with his best friend. I heard a knock on the bus door. It was probably their manager. Frank sometimes sent him to check on me.

I got out of the bunk and opened the door. Coming face to face with Travis. It was still raining he stood there getting soaked his hair was out and a mess of curls. I froze. His arms sprang out and he pulled me to him, his lips crashing into mine. It took a minute for what was happening to register. His tongue forced its way into my mouth. Finally I recovered enough to push him away.

"Non..." he said out of breath, it was still pouring down rain so I was sure he couldn't tell I was crying.

"No," I said as he took a step closer. "I'm with Frankie now." I could see the hurt on his face. It felt good to hurt him. "Just...Just go away." His hurt turned to anger as he turned to leave. I got back onto the bus. And sat on the floor, shivering from the cold, or maybe it was from the adrenaline coursing through my veins. I don't know, the next thing I knew Bob was carrying me back to the bunk Frank and I shared. "Where's Frank?"

"He's coming, he had to talk to Luke our manager, I think he is trying to see if he can get that new band moved off the tour. I didn't want him to see you

sleeping on the floor. He would never let you out of his sight then." He said smiling down at me. I knew I wasn't going to tell Frank about Travis's visit. If I did there's no telling what he would do. If he thought that Travis was trying to rekindle what we had before.

"Thanks Bob." I said climbing further into the bunk; I savored the smell of the covers they smelled like Frank.

Chapter 17

A Love That's So Demanding(26, 27)

Chapter 26

(Travis's POV)

I sat in my bunk with the bottle of vodka half empty in my hand. We were headed to the next city. I can't believe it she's with Frank. She belongs with me. "Travis what's going on, you don't seem to be celebrating the departure of the wicked witch of the east." Matt said with a smile sitting on the bunk across from mine.

"I found Non,"

"That's great man where is she? Is she okay?"

"She's on the My Chem bus."

"What why?"

"That's Frankie's band, she's with him now."

"With him, with him?" I nodded my head. "Travis, are you okay with that?"

"No,"

"Well, look don't screw this up for us. We need this."

"I won't," I said looking him in the eyes. "I won't," he took the vodka bottle from my hand and went toward the front of the bus. I laid down in my bunk and looked at the ceiling. She would be mine again. It just might take some convincing.

(Frank's POV)

I watched Non sleep all night. When we arrived at the venue, we had some interviews to go on. Non went to all of them with us. I didn't want to risk Travis getting a chance to upset her. I know we were all wrong before, but I also know Travis and he doesn't like to lose. I'm sure by now someone has told

him that we are together. That we are a happy couple.

After all the interviews were over the guys went to explore the venue. Me and Non decided now was the perfect time for some alone time on the bus. We opened the door and as Non made it to the top step she froze. "Non?" I moved so that I was standing on the step with and I could see over her shoulder.

There sat Travis on the couch in the common area. "What the hell are you doing here?"

"I come bearing gifts," he said waving a white towel in front of himself. " For you," he handed Non a box that was about as long as a shoebox, but only an inch or two deep. She opened it even though we both already knew what was inside; her favorite chocolate covered strawberries. "And for you," he handed me a movie case. I looked down at it. It was our favorite move "Napoleon Dynamite." all three of us loved this movie, before anyone else caught on to it. "I thought we could watch it before the show. I know I was wrong, but we all screwed up. We can't take back what we did, but we can move on. I... I miss my best

friends." he seemed sincere. Non sat down the box and walked over to him, and hugged him.

"I'm sorry about my part about in all of this," she said. Then she looked back at me. "Frank we were all wrong." I thought about it, they were both right.

(Flashback)

"Tag your it." I said running from the third grader. He was twice my size and faster. I barely made it to the swing set before he tagged me back and ran away. I sat down on the ground there was no way I would be able to catch any of these kids they were all a year older and bigger than me.

"Hi do you wanna race me to the fence?" a light skinned black boy said. He was a little taller than I was. His hair was really cool it just went all over the place.

"Hi. I like your hair, I'm Frank," he smiled a crooked smile and I noticed he was missing a tooth.

"I'm Travis, do you wanna race?"

"Yeah lets go." I stood up and we both took off. I knew he was going to win and I think he did to. The closer we got the fence the slower he got. I started to jump up and down when I won. "Thanks for letting me win," I said knowingly.

"I didn't..."

"Its ok, thanks." he just smiled.

(End Flashback)

I extended my hand to Travis. I've known him since we were both five. I couldn't let it end that way. Not to mention Non was giving me the "if you don't agree you won't be getting any for a long time" look. He shook it vigorously and then we sat down to watch the movie.

It was a little awkward cause it used to be Travis holding Non during the movie. Non wasn't even sitting next to him. I sat in between the two of them. But by the end of the movie we were feeling the way we used to when we were together. Then the movie ended and it was time for Travis and I to get ready for the show. Leaving Non on the bus again.

"So why isn't Non coming to watch her two men own the crowd."

"She has this thing about crowds, nothing to worry about." I said he left me standing on the side of the stage.

Chapter 27

(Nonnie's POV)

I sat on the couch behind Travis, braiding his hair. Things had gotten back to the way they used to be. We had been on tour for about a month. We all accepted our responsibility for what happened and let it go it was in the past. I had come clean and told Travis why I left. He said he understood how that would have been hard on all three of us and that he was sorry that he made me feel that I couldn't come to him.

Things were starting to look up the guys in his band Gym Class Heroes; I haven't a clue where that name came from. Had started treating me like a little sister too. "So Non what are you doing tonight while Frank is busy with interviews?" tonight was an off night but

Frank and the rest of the guys had to have dinner with a bunch of reporters and stuff. Luke said it would be best that I not go so that any potential fans didn't know that Frank had a girlfriend. I didn't feel offended cause I knew that they would ask and Frank wouldn't lie about me. He would proudly say that he had a girlfriend and give my name and everything.

"I thought I'd tidy up the bus a bit, those guys haven't cleaned a thing since the last time I did, and its seriously starting to smell."

"Why don't you come with me and hang out there's this place the locals say is a lot of fun."

"Yeah what kind of place?" I said suspiciously.

"Its this bar, they say its pretty low key, you know not a lot of people go there."

"Oh, well I'll just tell Frankie that I'm leaving okay," I hadn't had a drink since we left LA I was kinda in the mood for one so my mission now was to tell Frank that I was going to a bar and have him trust me enough to only have one drink. It would be easy, I'd

have a weak drink, maybe just a Smirnoff or something.

"Alright," I left him sitting on the couch and headed to the back of the bus and called Frank.

"Hey babe." He said, I could hear him smiling.

"Hey, how's it going?"

"Luke just got finished yelling at me for telling them about you, how's your night going?"

"Fine," I took a deep breath. "Travis and I are about to go out."

"Where to?" he asked I could tell that his smile had fallen.

"This place some locals recommended, it's a bar."

"Non, just be careful okay, and don't drink too much. Which you and I both know means have one drink, and don't let Travis pressure you into drinking more okay." We both knew that Travis had done that before that's how our first time happened I was so drunk I barely remembered what happened. I couldn't believe what I'd done then I realized that I

loved Travis and so it was okay that we had had sex. Now I wasn't with him so getting drunk was a really bad idea.

I went into the bath room and put on my baby Phat top it had flowing sleeves with a gold and chocolate brown print, a low v-neck and was fitted around my torso in a sold chocolate brown band that stopped about three inches above my low rise boot cut dark blue jeans. I ran the curlers though my hair so it would fall in waves around my face. I put on a bit of eyeliner and left the stall.

"You ready?" Travis said as I walked into the common area he seemed unimpressed with my outfit.

"Yeah lets go." we walked three blocks until we came to a club that was packed. "I thought it was a bar." I said a little worried, I hadn't told him about my fear of crowds and didn't want to.

"So did I, oh well lets check it out." we made our way to the front of the line a lot of angry yells followed us the whole way. Travis slipped the guy a twenty dollar bill and he let us in. The music was loud and fast, everyone was dancing. The further we got into the

club the denser the crowd, the more I wanted to turn back. I looked down cause something hit my foot but it was too dark to see what it was. When I looked up Travis was gone, my chest got tight and my vision begin to blur.

"Travis!" I yelled but the music was too loud I'm sure no one heard me. I turned around I had to get out of here. Then someone grabbed me around the waist.

"Non Where did you disappear to?" he grabbed my hand and started pulling me deeper into the crowd.

"Travis I wanna go," I said but my voice wasn't cooperating and I knew he couldn't hear me over the music. Finally we arrived at a booth in the back of the club there were a few other people there but they moved over enough for the two of us to sit. I sat down and tried to regain my bearings.

"Non you okay," I smiled I really didn't want him to know that I was freaking out.

"Yeah, I'm fine." I yelled back.

"I'm going to go get us some drinks okay,"

"Okay," he got up and left as long as I didn't move from this spot I was going to be fine I knew it. He returned with a martini glass. I took the drink and sipped it for what seemed like hours. I didn't like the taste, but I hadn't told him what I wanted to drink any way. He got up a couple of times to dance each time asking me to join him, but each time I refused. I was going to wait till last call and after the crowd thinned out tell him I was ready to go home. "Non there is no way we are leaving tonight with out you dancing at least once with me." he said pulling me to my feet. I stumbled forward he caught me before I fell. That drink must have been stronger than I thought.

"Travis I really don't feel like dancing." I said as he pulled me out into the dancing crowd. He pulled me to him and started moving to the beat of the music. My hands froze at my side I couldn't move. I felt dizzy he started to move me from side to side and I started to listen to the music the crowd melted away. He moved my arms up around his neck. The music slowed down to an R&B ballad, I couldn't make out the lyrics or the artist. I could only hear the music.

He pulled my leg up around his waist and started grinding to the beat of the music. I took my arms down and tried to back away from him, but I lost my balance. He knew that I would try that, he had his other hand ready to catch me. He pulled me back to him. That one drink shouldn't have this effect on me I don't care how strong it is. He must have slipped me something. He bent down and started kissing my neck, he went strait to that spot right where my neck and shoulder met. I finally mustered enough strength the get my leg free and stand on my own feet again. I pushed him away and quickly headed for the door.

Chapter 18

A Love That's So Demanding (28, 29, 30)

Hey so so so so so so sorry I got distracted which for me is really hard to do. Unless there's a book to read. Then its pretty easy and that's what i was doing reading a book so again sorry that i didn't update sooner and thanks for all of the comments. I'm going to go update the rest of the stories now. Promise.

Non

Chapter 28

(Frank's POV)

I sat in our bunk waiting for Non to get back. Something didn't feel right. I know she was back to

trusting Travis completely but I've know that man most of my life, he doesn't forgive that quickly nor does he give up on something. I didn't say anything to Non, but once she said she was going out tonight with Travis. I knew it was a bad idea.

Now its 2:00 am and I haven't seen or heard from either of them. I took out my cell phone and called Non. It rang twice then someone answered it I heard a lot of loud music. "Non?" I yelled, "Non?"

"Frank," she slurred over the line. I was instantly mad at her. I specifically told her not to get drunk. I told her to have one drink.

"Non where are you?" the line went dead. I got up and headed off the bus.

"Hey where are you going?" I must have woken Ray up while I was on the phone.

"Non went out with Travis and she's drunk. I gotta find her, or..."

"Or what you don't think Travis still has it out for you guys," I just looked at him. "Look lets wake up the

others and we will all go look for her." he said standing up.

Chapter 29

(Nonnie's POV)

Travis snatched the phone from my hand and threw it into the street. I watched as a car ran over it. "Travis what..." he grabbed me and put one of my arms around his neck and placed his other arm around my waist. We started walking down the street. "Travis what did you do?"

"I didn't do anything, you had too much to drink."

"Travis, I only had one drink."

"Girl you been drinking all night."

"Why did you hang up on Frank?" I was struggling to keep up with his pace. I could feel my thought process slowing I had to get these answers before I could no longer think of why I was asking.

"I know you don't want Frank to see you drunk, you know he would lose it." he was right, "I'll get you back to your bunk and you can go to sleep, okay." my

tongue wouldn't say anymore words and I could barely tell what he was talking about anymore. I nodded my head but that just made me dizzier than before. I felt him tighten his grip on me.

After a lot of stumbling we mad our way onto the bus. He sat me down on the couch, and plopped down next to me. I started to drift off to sleep. My eyes shot open as I felt someone's hand start up my thigh, then Travis crashed his lips into mine. I pushed him away and fell onto the floor. I looked around the room and realized that this wasn't my bus it was his.

"What's wrong Non?" he said in a sickeningly sweet voice. "Oh I get it you can cheat on me with him, but you can't cheat on him with me. Did I get that right." I didn't answer I was too busy trying to get up. "Why!" he yelled.

"I love him," I screamed.

"Well your about to prove that cause if you tell him about what's about to happen. He'll ruin his career, and his life trying to get back at me. You know I'm right." I made one more attempt to get to my feet, he

just laughed. I used to love that laugh. I felt whatever he had slipped into my drink start to do its job.

"Travis please don't do this." I begged. As he climbed on top of me and started removing my clothes. Finally I blacked out.

(Travis's POV)

I started kissing down her neck. She moaned like I knew she would. The guy who gave me the stuff to slip into her drink said it would work almost immediately. I guess I didn't take into account that she hates the taste of vodka. I removed her shirt and jeans. I looked at her beautifully slim body. Then the bus door flew open.

"Travis what the hell?" it was Matt. He looked at me then at Non. "Put her clothes back on and help me get her to her room" he said looking at me with disgust. I was so close. I know once I made love to, her she would remember that we belonged together and break up with Frank and come back to me. I redressed her quickly and Matt helped me carry her across the street to the hotel. He opened his phone

and called Frank to tell him that we were at their room.

"Travis, why didn't you stop her from drinking?" Frank said when he saw the state she was in.

"I spent most of the time on the dance floor, not babysitting a grown woman." I said pissed off. Matt had ruined my plan. I knew she would freak from the crowed she wouldn't care about the drink just so long as she wasn't in it.

"Dude you know Non can't handle her liquor." Frank yelled back. He took her from our arms after opening the room door and slammed it in our faces. I took a deep breath.

"Travis, I don't care what the hell you were doing, but I swear if you try something like that again..." Matt said as we walked down the hall toward our room.

"What?"

"I will call the whole thing off. We will leave the tour and you will leave the band. Get this thing under control leave them alone."

"Shut up, She won't tell him and he won't find out about it. I promised I wouldn't screw this up for us and I won't so just back off." I stormed off.

Chapter 30

(Frank's POV)

I lay her down on the bed and started to undress her. "No," She whimpered I'm sure it took a lot for her to say that. I called everyone and told them they could stop looking that she was here and safe. After I changed I sat on the bed and watched her sleep. I pushed some of her hair behind her ear. There were a few hickeys on her neck. I knew I didn't put them there.

"Travis." I said out loud. . I wanted to go and kick the living hell out of him, but I had to think about the tour. I can't ruin things for the others. We have all worked so hard to get here. He was up to his old tricks again. I wondered how far he got. I hoped that the hickeys were the only thing he left her with. I can't believe I was so stupid. She can't stay here, its not safe, I can't watch her all the time. I left her in the bed and went out into the hallway, with my phone. I

dialed the number to her friends in LA. She would be safe there.

"Hello?" a groggy female voice said.

"Yeah, this is Frank can I talk to Rachael?"

"Frank, is Non okay?"

"Yes she's fine for now. Who is this?"

"Its Janay, what's going on with my friend." I told what I suspected Travis was trying to do.

"I think it would be best if she came and stayed with you guys just until this tour is over. I can't protect her from him, and I can't ruin the bands chances if I want to take care of her later."

"Did you tell her any of this?"

"No, and I don't know how to she trust Travis again. I don't, I never did." By this time I was sitting on the floor in the hallway by my rooms door.

"Look, she can come here and stay, but she's going to have to get a job."

"You and I both know she doesn't mind working. Thank you,"

"That's what family is for." She said and hung up. Now to tell Non that she's going back to LA. I got back onto the phone and started making travel arrangements for Non she would be leaving in the morning.

(Janay's POV)

I sat up in my bed and looked over at Pete. "Sorry to wake you." I said

"Who was that?" he said pulling me back down into bed.

"Frank," I said "Nonnie's friend," I added as I saw a jealousy cross his face.

"Oh what did he want?"

"He want's Nonnie to come and stay here until he finishes touring for a month and a half."

"Andy will be happy to see her again."

"That's what I was thinking. I think she and Andy never got a chance really. So while she's here. Away

from Frank, maybe she will come to her senses and get with Andy."

"Okay," he said pulling me into his arms, "When is she coming?"

"I think Frank wants her here as soon as possible."

"Why is he sending her away, I thought they were so close."

"Remember her ex-boyfriend, his band is touring with them. Although I think that Frank is tired of sharing. So he's sending her away so she doesn't fall for the same trick again."

"Look I saw the way he looked at Nonnie when he was here. I don't think that theory applies anymore." I looked at him like he was crazy.

"You don't know what she was like in New York. So don't assume anything." they didn't deserve my friend. Sure she had pissed me off before she left, and she didn't take my advice, but she was going though something that I hope to never understand. She had lost her child and found one of the potential fathers. I bet that if Travis had found her first she

would be with him right now, miserable. I closed my eyes; "I have to tell Ray this in the morning so don't let me forget okay."

"Okay." He said his voice betraying that he thought I was wrong about Frank.

Chapter 19

A Love That's So Demanding (31,32)

Chapter 31

(Nonnie's POV)

I shot up in bed and instantly regretted it the room was spinning and my head was pounding. My stomach was sick, I ran for the bathroom trying my best to ignore the pounding in my head. I emptied my stomach and sat on the cold tile floor trying to regain my composure. How did I get here? Did Travis rape me? Where was Frank? Did he know about last night?

Thinking about these things just made my head spin even more. I felt the bile rising again and leaned over

the toilet. I felt a cold towel on the back of my neck "A little hung over are we?" Frank said, he was teasing me but not in a playful manor. I knew he was mad at me.

"I'm sorry, I honestly only had on..." I quickly remembered that telling him how much I drank would tip him off about Travis. "I'm sorry."

"He can still get under your skin, can't he?"

"What?" he pointed to my neck.

"Those hickey's he did them while you were drunk last night." I stood up a little too fast and swayed. He grabbed me and helped me steady myself as I looked in the mirror. Sure enough there were four purple hickeys going down my neck. "Come on, you have a flight to catch."

"Frank where are we going?" I said a small smile coming to my face. He didn't smile back.

"You are going back to LA, to stay with Rachael and Janay. Until the tour is over." My mouth fell open. "You need to go get dressed." He started to walk away.

"Frank I'm not going back there," he stopped and turned, he looked like he was trying to get angry at me but couldn't. "I'm not going."

"Yes you are you don't have a choice."

"You obviously don't remember that I'm your girlfriend not your child."

"You make it kinda hard to remember that, when things like last night happen."

"That was the first time since I left LA that I even had a drink and you invited me to come on tour with you."

"Yeah well looks like that was my mistake."

"Frank you can't just send me away like a child who misbehaved."

"I have too..." he burst, my head was still hurting and I was getting a little dizzy I reached out to steady myself against the wall. He came over and picked me up. "Look Non I can't watch you all the time and I don't trust Travis, I know I have been acting like nothing ever happened and that everything is fine."

He said sitting me on the bed and kneeling down in front of me. "I see the way he looks at you, I know what could have happened last night with you passed out drunk. I can't let him hurt you that way, but I also can't ruin the tour, we are doing so well. After this we are going to rerecord our album, we might just get a better contract. I'm not saying that it's more important than you are, but I see where this whole thing could go. Travis is trying to tear us apart and look its working we are already fighting."

"Frank people fight all the time, they don't call it quits because of one fight."

"Is that what you thought?" I simply nodded. "I'm not breaking up with you, I'm just asking you to go to LA until the tour is over, then I will personally come and get you." He sat down beside me and pulled me close.

"Frank, when I'm not with you things tend to go wrong." I snuggled into his neck taking in his scent.

"Don't worry your friends in LA will look out for you, I mean the first thing Janay said was, "Is Non okay?" when she found out it was me calling. I know she

doesn't like me but I know she cares for you, that's what matters."

"Okay, then I just won't go, you can't make me" I said sounding like a child, I knew I was being stubborn but I wasn't getting on that plane.

Chapter 32

(Janay's POV)

We pulled into the airport pick up lane, Andy, Pete and I. Ray had stayed home. No she wasn't mad she just didn't feel like riding with us. Non stood there with her arms crossed and if looks could kill we would all be dead. "Uh I know you aren't going to sit there and be mad at me for letting you come stay with us?" I said walking up to her.

"I'm not mad at you, I'm mad at Frank and the other's, they all basically tied me to the seat on the plane." She said I started laughing she wasn't serious. "I'm not even joking," she said pulling some rope out of her back pocket.

"Now that is funny," she surprised me and gave me a hug, at first I hesitated.

"I'm sorry about the fight before I left. I know you were just trying to look out for me."

"I'm sorry too, I shouldn't have told Andy all your business like that, I just thought that if he knew what was going on he would be able to help you." I said "You know he's waiting in the car with Pete, I told them I wanted to talk to you before they helped with your bags."

"I don't know what to say to him. I mean he's a nice guy and all, but I know that I belong with Frank." She said I plastered a smile on my face. She didn't belong with Frank, but that was a different issue.

"Don't worry about it, that all happened in the past." I waved over to the guys and they both got out of the car. Andy gave her a hug and she hugged him back, Pete did the same. Then they took her bags and got into the car. I was happy to see that Non, aside from being pissed off for being here she looked great. She had gained back her weight. Maybe Frank had done a good job.

(Nonnie's POV)

I got into the back seat of the car and shortly after Andy joined me. As Pete drove away from the airport an uncomfortable silence filled the air. I tried not to look at Andy. I know Janay said that was all in the past but I know better I'd hurt him. We were never together but he wanted to be.

We pulled up to the apartment building and we all got out, the guys got my bags and I ran ahead to see Ray. She flung the door open. "Girl you look good," she said when she saw me.

"Thanks, you look good too," I said looking at her obviously pregnant belly. "Why didn't you...I didn't know." I stuttered.

"Janay didn't tell you in the car," she pulled me into a hug.

"Uh no she didn't." we made our way into the house.

"Well I found out about a week after you left." Bill sat on the couch in the living room.

"Bill, someone's been busy." I said hugging him.

"Yeah I try," he said making me laugh.

"So what are we doing tonight." Pete asked after putting my things in my room,(Janay never did take the bigger one).

"You guys can do what ever but I'm going to go get some rest." I was still suffering from what ever drug Travis had slipped me.

"How bout we rent some movies and order pizza or something." Ray said obviously trying to hint that she wanted to include me in the plans.

"That's sounds good, just let me wash up a bit," I went back to my room got some clothes to change into. Then headed to the shower.

Chapter 20

A Love That's So Demanding (33 ,34)

Chapter 33

(Frank's POV)

I hung up the phone after leaving a message, I knew she wouldn't answer. I still had a bit mark from where she tried to get lose. It was a temporary thing though. I dialed Rachael's number. It rang twice then a man's voice came over the line. "Hi can I speak to Rachael, please?"

"This had better be Frank,"

"It is." I said.

"Oh its me Bill, how's the tour going?"

"Pretty good," this was quite different than the way I was treated when I was there in person.

"Good,"

"Uh...Not that I don't like that you aren't being a dick this time around, but why are you being nice to me?"

"I'm allowed to be nice to you now cause Non came back, looking and feeling better than when she left. Plus Ray said I can." we both laughed at that cause we both knew that she was a scary girl when she wanted to be.

"So than Non is there and safe?"

"Yeah she just went to take a shower and then we are all going to watch movies and eat Pizza."

"Who all is there?" I know I was being nosey but kinda already knew who was going to be there.

"Pete, Janay, Andy, Ray, and Me." he said Andy like he hoped I wouldn't remember who he was.

"So Andy's over huh?"

"Yup..."

"Alright, do me a favor and tell Non to check the messages on the phone,"

"Sure no problem." we both said bye and hung up. I really wanted to hear Non's voice. I wondered if Travis had learned that I'd sent her back yet I hadn't seen him since last night when he dropped Non off passed out at our hotel room.

(Travis's POV)

I climbed out of my cramped bunk, I was still pissed off at Matt for showing up last night. I can still hear Non moaning under me, but I guess I have to wait a little while longer. Its going to be harder now that she doesn't trust me, but Frank still does. I left my room, and headed for the buses. We were headed to the next venue.

"Hey wudd up Ray?" I said

"Nothing I was just about to go try and call Non, just to make sure she landed okay." he said.

"Wait what? Landed? Where did Non go?"

"Oh you didn't know? Frank sent her back to LA, to stay with her friends."

"No I didn't know. Did he say why?"

"No just that he thought she needed to be in a more stable environment, I kept trying to tell him that she was a grown woman and that she probably just needed to blow off some steam last night..."I'd stopped listening. Looks like she told him. It was a genius plan really, send her away then I couldn't get to her, and he wouldn't have to worry about it. "Did you?"

"Huh?"

"I said you didn't do a good job last night looking out for Non, did you?"

"Yeah, like you said she is not a child she is a grown woman, she's going to get tired of being treated like that." I have to go apologize to Frank. Keep that door open. "Do you know where Frank is?"

"Yeah he's on our bus sulking cause he won't be getting any until after the tour." then a new idea came to mind. Maybe I didn't have to seduce Non;

maybe I just had to get Frank laid and make sure Non found out about it.

Chapter 34

(Nonnie's POV)

I cursed as I got out of the shower and realized that I'd left my clothes on my bed with the phone. I wrapped the towel around me tightly and opened the door cautiously. "Hey Non," I heard Bill say from the living room.

"Yeah?" I said walking quickly to my room the house was cold compared to the warmth of the shower and I was freezing.

"Frank said check you messages please." I smiled we knew each other so well. I knew he would be missing me, just as much as I missed him.

"Thanks Bill," I said opening my bed room door. I almost dropped my towel as I bumped into a topless Andy.

"Uh...Sorry, I just came in here to change my clothes...and..." his voice trailed off as he realized that

I was standing there naked with nothing but a thin towel on.

"Yeah so... you can go now." I said bringing him out of his stupor.

"Sorry." he said one more time before leaving the room and closing the door behind him. I sat down on the bed I could still feel my cheeks burning. That was embarrassing. I found my/Frank's phone and dialed the voice mail. Frank's voice came over the line.

"Nonnie, don't give me the silent treatment. You know I only sent you there cause Travis is up to no good, no matter how much you want to believe he is a good guy. He's not. I want to not have to worry about you being around him. Please call me later. I love you, and I'm not just saying that cause we are apart. I know that it's the first time I'm saying it and it's a bit cheapened by the fact that its on the answering machine. But I wanted you to know that I love you. Okay so I can't erase this now can I? Call me okay."

I listened to the rest of the messages with a huge geek smile on my face. Most of them were from the guys

all saying that they hoped I'd made it here safe and that they wanted to beat up Frank for making me come here.

All accept Gerard he said that he thought that Frank had done the right thing and that I shouldn't hold it against him. I thought about it for a while. I knew that he had done the right thing, but that doesn't mean that I had to like it. I dialed Gerard's phone number. It only rang once and then Frank's voice came over the line. "Non?"

"I forgive you for sending me into exile." I said in an overly dramatic voice causing him to laugh.

"I knew you would after a nice hot shower." He said I could hear him smiling.

"And how did you know I was in the shower?"

"I have my ways,"

"Oh yeah that's right you did call here," I said bursting his sense of mystery. I heard some wrestling then Ray's voice came over the line.

"So what are you wearing?"

"Your momma's night gown, now give him back the phone." I said laughing. I heard some more wrestling then Mikey's voice came over the line.

"Hey, are you having fun yet?"

"No, Please give Frank back the phone," there was more wrestling, I could hear the guys laughing in the background as Bob's voice came over the line.

"So who's Andy?" he said teasing me.

"He's a friend can you please give Frank the phone,"

"Hold your horses there's only one more." He laughed.

"Fine give the phone to Gerard." I conceded.

"Did you two make up?" Gerard asked when he got the phone.

"Yes, now can I talk to my boyfriend?"

"I guess so," he said.

"Sorry babe, but it was four on one."

"Yeah whatever, anyway about your message I..."

"Don't." he said interrupting me." You don't have to say it cause I did,"

"That's not why I'm saying it..."

"Well than fine say it when I show up in a month and a half to take you home."

"No fair. You get to say it over the phone but I can't."

"Basically bye." I tried to get the words out before he hung up, but I knew he didn't hear me say I loved him. I was going to get him for that later. I got up and started to get my clothes together.

Then there was a knock on the door. "Who is it?" I asked.

"It's Andy, they are about to start the movie and order the pizza. They wanted to know what you wanted on yours."

"Oh uh, green peppers and sausage okay."

"Yeah that's fine I guess."

"Oh that's right you don't eat meat, just the green peppers." I said opening the door fully dressed.

"Okay. You know you don't have to not eat meat around me. Its not like I'm an alcoholic and can't be around people drinking."

"I know," I said and followed him out to the living room. The other two couples took up both the chairs and Joe had shown up. Taking the lounger. I settled in on the floor with my back against the couch. Then Andy joined me sitting not too close but not too far away either. I said a silent prayer that things wouldn't keep feeling this awkward with him. He was a really nice guy to have in your corner.

Chapter 21

A Love That's So Demanding (35,36)

Chapter 35

(Frank's POV)

I hung up the phone and looked around the bus for something to keep me busy until we went to the dressing rooms to get ready for the show. The bus door opened and Travis came strolling in. "Hey Frankie," he said with a big smile.

"Hi." I said as unenthusiastically as I could.

"So, I'm sorry about last night, you know letting Non drink like that. I knew better I just..."

"Thought you might get laid if she was drunk enough, why do you even pretend to be our friend anymore. You have all these hidden agendas. I never trusted you after you joined us on tour, but Non wanted me to give you a chance. So I did, and where did it get me? Right back where I started pissed off at you for hurting the woman I'm in love with..." I was losing it.

"Whoa I was in love with her first, she was mine. I didn't do anything last night, but look out for her, had I known you would blame me for it. I would never have asked her to go with me." he said trying to defend himself.

"Yeah right you deliberately got her drunk so you could do what ever you wanted to her. I saw the hickeys." I was getting madder, my fist were clinched at my sides. I was hoping one of the guys would come on the bus and stop me from hitting him. I couldn't afford to mess up the tour.

"She didn't tell you?" he said surprised. "Oh well I guess she wouldn't. Last night she was dancing with some random guy and lets just say that she was drunk already so when he started to make out with

her I pulled her away. I didn't see any hickeys though, I must have missed that part." I looked at him, he didn't have any tells. "Look you don't have to believe me, I just came to tell you that you shouldn't have sent Non away if she wanted to stay. She is an adult, and can take care of herself. I was also planning to tell you that I would do better, you know with taking care of her. I mean I'm family too." I believe him. He was being sincere, something I didn't see from him very often. He's right about Non, when she's drunk unfortunately she can't take care of herself.

Chapter 36

(Janay's POV)

I watched as Non drifted off to sleep. I'd planned for Non and Andy to sit together. I mean it's just a total bonus that she just fell asleep on his shoulder. I watched as he hesitantly wrapped his arm around her. I am a genius.

After the movie was over everyone was leaving, well Joe was leaving he was the only one who wasn't living here. Accept for Andy who was staying cause Non was here. Even though he wouldn't admit it. Ray

and Bill went into their room. "Don't wake her just put her to bed." I said to Andy. He was about to wake Non and this was a chance for him to get a little closer to her. He nodded and picked her up, carrying her into her room. I looked at Pete he had a disapproving look on his face.

"Babe you shouldn't be playing match maker with her, she already has a match." He said getting up off the couch.

"It's the wrong one," I said and walked to my room. I knew what was best for my friend, and it wasn't Frank.

(Nonnie's POV)

I felt Frank lift me and put me in our bed, but he didn't lay next to me. "Don't leave," I said. Then I felt him climb into bed next to me. I wrapped my arms around him and fell into a deep sleep.

(Frank's POV)

I woke up in a bad mood. For the first time in a long time I slept alone. This was not a pleasant experience for me I kept reaching for Non but she wasn't there

she was in LA. With her friend who hates me and a guy that is obviously in love with her. How was I supposed to last a month and a half with out her?

I got out of my bunk and headed to the common area, I wondered if she was awake now I was somewhere in Texas, there was a two hour time difference. It was about 9:30 am here so it was 7:30 am there. I'll try any ways. I dialed the number and waited to see if she would answer.

"Hello?" a groggy male voice answered.

"Who is this?" I said trying not to raise my voice.

"Andy, who's this?"

"Where is Nonnie?"

"She's sleeping, I'll tell her to give you a call when she wakes up. This is Frank right?"

"Hell yeah, what are you doing answering her phone?"

"Look don't worry we just slept," he said I could hear the smile in his voice. Then the line went dead. I almost threw the phone across the bus.

(Nonnie's POV)

"Andy?" I said turning over, "What are you doing in my bed?" he got this bewildered look on his face.

"You asked me to stay, last night when I put you to bed." I remember reaching out for Frank last night. Shoot.

"Sorry I thought you were..."

"Frank." He finished for me, I could tell he was trying to hide his hurt feelings. I felt like crap.

"Andy I..."

"No don't worry about it," he said getting up out of the bed. "I'll just go back out to the couch, you should get some more rest." I nodded and watched him leave. After he closed the door behind him I put my head into my pillow and screamed. I hated hurting him, he was a really sweet guy. I rolled over and then remembered what had woken me up in the first place. My phone, I looked in the missed call menu. It was empty accept for the calls from yesterday.

"Wait Andy wouldn't answer my phone would he?" I asked myself. I checked the incoming calls on my phone, there was a call from Gerard's phone only a few minutes ago. I mumbled a string of curse words as I dialed the number.

"Why the hell are you sleeping with another man?" Frank yelled into the phone making me drop it on the bed.

"It's not what you think, last night..."

"You got drunk again didn't you. God is it really that hard for you not to drink,"

"Frank I didn't even go out last night. I was just still a little hung over..."

"Non, a hangover doesn't last that long." He was right a normal hangover wouldn't have lasted that long, but the drug induced one I had did.

"Frank honestly, I thought I was calling you to bed, and if its that big a deal let me come back on tour with you."

"Non we talked about this," he said the anger gone from his voice.

"Well let's renegotiate."

"No, you have to stay there. I talked to Travis, he said some random guy gave you the hickeys. You didn't even know you had them so, I think he was telling the truth. I'm not mad about that, but it made me realize that out here he's not the only one that could hurt you."

"Frank what if I said I wouldn't go out anymore, or drink anything for the whole rest of the tour." I said I didn't care that I was pleading. Things just felt wrong here. Like they were all waiting for me to fall apart. I could tell last night while we were watching the movie. "Frank I miss my family."

"You're with family,"

"No I'm with friends, you and the guys are my family. My only family." I stressed to him.

"Babe everything will be okay, and I promise once this tour is over I will be right at that front door flowers in hand." I didn't say anything so he

continued. "Please just..." I could tell he couldn't think of what to say, but he wanted to cheer me up.

"I love you Frank," I said with a smile.

"Hey I thought you were going to save that for when I came to get you," he said I could hear a smile spread across his face.

"Well you were taking too long," I realized that we didn't have anything else to talk about and should end the call now, but just hearing him breath on the line made me feel closer to him.

"Non, we are wasting Gee's minutes,"

"I don't care, just wait 'til I fall asleep okay,"

"No, you get up and go take a shower, its daytime no sleeping all day," he said like a father scolding a child.

"Yes Daddy," I said crawling out from under the covers.

"Daddy, I like that can you call me that next time we..."

"Uh no," I said laughing.

"Well how 'bout Popi,"

"I'll think about it,"

"Bye Non. I'll call tonight after the show, okay."

"Alright bye." I hung up the phone and headed for the living room something needed to be straightened out with Andy. I was going to try and be nice. Frank and I had been though a lot and I knew my history didn't look good with my cheating on my last boyfriend with his best friend, but I wasn't going to do that to Frank. I loved him too much.

Chapter 22

A Love That's So Demanding (37,38)

Chapter 37

(Janay's POV)

I stood in the hall plastered against the wall, hoping not to be seen. I was ease dropping on Nonnie and Andy. She was telling him that despite her past, she would never cheat on Frank, that she knew he was a really nice guy and would make someone really happy one day. I couldn't take it anymore so I pushed off the wall and entered the living room. "Hey you two," I said trying not to let it show that I'd heard the whole thing. "What are you doing up so early?"

"Just talking, but I'm beat so I think I'm going to go back to bed okay...uh never mind." Nonnie said with a smile, "I think I'll go take a shower instead."

I watched as she left the room leaving Andy and I alone. "So how did things go last night? I noticed that the couch was empty this morning."

"Nothing happened and nothing will happen," he said. He looked a little disappointed.

"You just have to give her a little time."

"Time for what? She loves him; I'd feel like crap coming between the two of them. Did she tell you all that she's been though, how long he's been looking out for her. The girl is full of stories where he has in some way saved her. I can't compete with superman, no human can." He was starting to get mad, but still kept his voice down.

"Look, right now she's in this honeymoon state of mind. Where he can do no wrong it will pass."

"No, I don't think it will." He ran his hands though his hair, "And I'm not willing to wait either." He stood up

and walked toward the door. "I'm heading over to my place. I'll be back later."

"You're just going to leave?"

"Yeah, I'm still her friend and if she needs me she can find me, but I'm not going to be that guy. I mean I'm tired of being that guy." He closed the door behind him. I sat there for a minute trying to figure out away to fix this. But nothing came to mind.

"She just had to screw that up didn't she?" I said out loud to myself.

"Who me?" I turned to see Nonnie standing in the hall way. She was not happy.

Chapter 38

(Nonnie's POV)

"So I just had to screw that up huh?"

"Non I... I didn't mean it in a bad way, but you just let a perfectly good guy walk out of your life."

"See what you don't seem to understand," I said as though I was talking to a child. "Is that I have a

perfectly good man, he will be here in six weeks to get me."

"Frank is not a good guy,"

"How the hell do you know?"

"Cause he slept with his best friends girl friend."

"That was more my fault than his, and its not fair to put all the blame on him."

"Non you were vulnerable at the time, you were lonely and he took advantage of that." She said looking at me with pity.

"You still don't get it do you?" I asked her. "I've loved Frank from the first time I met him, I just didn't know it. I fooled myself into thinking that I wanted Travis, why I don't know, maybe because we were so close as friends that I thought for us to be together we would lose that."

"Non, are you sure your not just fooling yourself again," she said rolling her eyes.

"Even if I am its not your place to interfere, if you want someone to be with Andy so bad you be with

him." I turned and headed to the shower, I was so pissed off at her. How is it that the girl who stayed with an abusive boyfriend for over a year thinks she knows what's best for me? I was about to bring that up, but I have to stay here for the next six weeks, and that would have really pissed her off.

Chapter 23

A Love That's So Demanding (39,40,41)

Chapter 39

(Travis's POV)

I watched as Frank came off the stage. It's been four weeks since he sent Non away. Everyone's noticed the change in him. I mean you wouldn't unless you knew him the way we did, but without Non around he wasn't himself. He had picked up the habit of having a few drinks after the show, his way of avoiding the empty bunk waiting for him on the bus. He never got drunk though, he just sat there nursing the one drink all night until we had to leave.

"Hey Frank," I said as he made his way to the bar, he turned and looked at me. "Come have some drinks with us." I said motioning to the girls who were sitting with me.

"Let me get a drink and I'll be right over," he yelled I watched him go and order a drink then make his way back over to the booth, we were sitting in.

"So you excited, only two more weeks, 'till we get to see Non," I said he got this funny look on his face.

"We?"

"Yeah I'm coming with you to pick her up, then I'll head off and meet with the guys, they are going to be recording in LA." I didn't wait to hear his response, I knew that I wasn't asking him I was telling him. "So this is Marlie with an "ie" and this is Trisha." I said they were both beautiful girls, Marlie was a tall brunette with green eyes and very little clothing on at the moment, and Trisha was black and shorter about Nonnie's height and body type. Other than that she looked nothing like her, but she was the wild card. Well I'd told her about some things. Actually I lied my butt off about how Non treated Frank, to

make her feel sorry for him. Now all I had to do was slip something into that drink while he wasn't looking.

I was happy that the rest of his band was no where in sight, they knew how much he loved Non and would have stopped him before he could do something stupid. I watched as he sat his drink on the table so he could lean closer to Trisha, so that he hear what she was saying, also turning his head away from his drink. Bingo. With a flick of my wrist the deed was done.

Chapter 40

(Frank's POV)

"Frank!" Gerard was yelling at me, "Frank!" I could tell by his voice he was obviously pissed off.

"What!?" that was a big mistake. My head felt like it was being split open by a jack hammer. I felt someone wrap their arm around me. I opened my eyes and looked down to see that I was lying in my bunk naked. Trisha the girl from the bar last night was lying with her head on my chest and also naked.

I shot up hitting my head on the bunk above my head, causing even more pain to shoot through my head. I rolled out of the bunk, falling to the ground. I quickly found my boxers and pulled them on. Gerard stood over me. I tried desperately to remember what happened last night. I looked up at the girl; she looked confused by my actions.

"Frank are you okay?" she said pulling on one of my shirts.

"What happened?" I asked.

"What do you mean what happened?" she said.

"I think that's pretty obvious," Gerard said.

"I don't remember anything that happened last night," her face fell, "We didn't? Did we? Non is never going to..." I looked at her, "Trisha I'm sorry. Last night..."

"Was a mistake, we both had too much to drink." She finished for me only she didn't look like she meant it at all. "I...I gotta go." She grabbed her clothes and quickly dressed in the bathroom stall. Gerard hadn't stopped looking at me in disgust. We both watched as

Trisha rushed off the bus. I climbed back into my bunk, hanging my legs out the side.

"Gee what the hell did I do?"

"Apparently that girl." He said with anger and sarcasm, "What the hell were you thinking?"

"I don't remember anything after I had my drink last night. Non can't find out about this." I said pleadingly.

"You have to tell her."

"I can't she'll never forgive me for this."

"Tell her you had too much to drink and made a mistake."

"No, Gee promise me you won't tell her,"

"Frank..."

"Gerard it will hurt her more than anything else." If she found out she'd think I was just like Travis. "Please." I said in a low voice.

"Don't make me lie to her; she's been lied too so much already."

"You won't be lying you just won't be telling." I said trying to reason with him.

"Whatever," he said, "But no more drinking," then he just walked away. I took a deep breath as long as she doesn't know about this we'll be fine. What she doesn't know can't hurt her. Right?

Chapter 41

(Nonnie's POV)

"Order up?" Ralph a short chubby black man.

"Thanks Ralph," I said grabbing the three hot plates and sliding them onto my tray. He was the owner and short order cook here at Lucy's Diner. It was a pretty nice place all decked out with the feeling of being in the 1950's when there were real diners around. He switched it up though and all the waitresses here took turns entertaining the patrons. "Enjoy your meal." I said as the music started. I jumped up onto the bar/stage. Sue another waitress tossed me the mic and I started belting out the lyrics to "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm yours." The Stevie Wonder version.

Like a fool I went and stayed too long

Now I'm wondering if your love's still strong

Oo baby, here I am, signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours

Then that time I went and said goodbye

Now I'm back and not ashamed to cry

Oo baby, here I am, signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours

Here I am baby

Oh, you've got the future in your hand

(signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours) Here I am baby,

oh, you've got the future in your hand

(signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours)

I've done a lot of foolish things

that I really didn't mean

Hey, hey, yea, yea, didn't I, oh baby

Seen a lot of things in this old world

When I touched them they did nothing, girl

Oo baby, here I am, signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours, oh I'm yours

Oo-wee babe you set my soul on fire

That's why I know you are my only desire

Oo baby, here I am, signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours

Here I am baby

Oh, you've got the future in your hand

(signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours) Here I am baby,

oh, you've got the future in your hand

(signed, sealed, delivered, I'm yours)

I've done alot of foolish things

that I really didn't mean

I could be a broken man but here I am

With your future, got your future babe (here I am baby)

Here I am baby (signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours)

Here I am baby, (here I am baby)

Here I am baby (signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours)

Here I am baby, (here I am baby)

Here I am baby (signed, sealed delivered, I'm yours)

Most of the girls here were waiting to be discovered I was waiting for Frank to come get me. Not that we didn't talk on the phone everyday, but the closer we got to him coming back the further away it seemed. We were down to a count down of one week. I couldn't wait.

I finished the song and hopped down. My shift was officially over, I had yet to tell Ralph that I was leaving, I wanted to wait a little longer. I don't know why, just a feeling I had. I collected my tips and paycheck and headed out front. Andy was waiting for me.

"You ready?" he asked, as I slid into the backseat.

"Yes hi Claire," the petite brunette turned and waved to me. She was his new girlfriend. I'd introduced them she worked at Lucy's too. I knew they would hit it off. We pulled up to his apartment building and all got out. I'd been staying with him for a week now.

Janay and I kept fighting, she thought she knew what was best for me and I though differently. I didn't want to risk stressing Ray out so I started looking for my own place. Andy and I by that time had gotten closer as friends and he could tell that things were strained there. So he said since I only needed a place for three weeks I could stay with him. I still paid part of the rent and contributed to the bills.

We made our way into the small apartment it had two bedrooms, but still not nearly as big as Ray's. As he opened the door the phone rang. I rushed past him and answered it. "Hello?"

"Hey," Ray's voice came over the line.

"What's up?"

"You got a package today and its killing me to know what it is." I wondered who would be sending me a package, cause I still hadn't told him I was staying with Andy. That conversation would definitely not end well.

"I'll be over in five to pick it up, uh is Janay there?"

"No, but she gets off in twenty so hurry up if your trying to avoid her." I loved that girl she understood me even though we hadn't known each other for as long as Janay and I had.

"Okay bye." I hung up the phone and rushed into my room to change. I through on a random t-shirt and a pair of jeans then slipped on a pair of converse. "I'm headed..." I didn't bother to finish my sentence. I knew that Claire and Andy wouldn't hear me cause they were making out on the couch. Andy waved an arm as if to say.

"Yeah, yeah we know." I just laughed and left locking the door behind me. Ray's house was only about a block away, so I walked.

"Hey," she said as I walked into the door. She was sitting on the couch with her feet up.

"How's baby Beckett doing today?"

"Fine, the doctors say I'm doing great."

"Do we know yet if it's a boy or girl?"

"No, I want it to be a surprise." She said standing up from her seat. "Here," she handed me a small square package. I opened it and inside was a disk case with a recorded disk inside. I looked at it, it wasn't labeled. I couldn't tell weather it was a DVD or a CD.

"Uh...what do you think it is, a recording of one of their shows?" I asked her.

"There's only one way to find out, put it in the DVD player." I did. She turned on the TV and put it on the right channel. The screen went from blue to black. Then switched to night vision. "Paris Hilton anyone?" Ray said. I was about to choke as my laugh stuck to my throat. I was starting to recognize one of the faces on the tape. His hands wrapped around her waist and I could clearly see Halloween spelled across the fingers. I fell backward, but arms caught me. I could hear her moaning his name. I looked to see who it was that caught me. It was Pete he helped me sit on the couch. I heard him tell ray to turn it off, but his voice seemed far away like I was hearing it from under water. I couldn't cry, I couldn't think all I could hear was his name coming from her lips.

"Non?" Pete said wrapping me in a hug.

"Yes," it didn't sound like I was saying that.

"Are you okay?" He asked.

"I knew it!" Janay yelled I looked over to see her standing in the doorway.

Chapter 24

A Love That's So Demanding (42,43,44)

Chapter 42

(Janay's POV)

I hadn't been feeling well all day at work. So I called Pete to come and pick me up 10 min early. I know I could have stayed that ten minutes but I really wanted to go home. As I walked into the door. I saw Nonnie watching TV, we hadn't really seen each other in a couple of weeks. Then I looked at the TV and realized what I was watching. Frank was making love to another woman. Pete rushed past me, catching Non as she fell. She looked like she didn't even know where she was.

"Non?" Pete said looking at Non with concern.

"Yes," she said in a small voice.

"Are you okay?"

"I knew it!" I screamed as Ray turned off the TV.

"Please Babe," Pete said without looking away from Non's face. "Now's not the time."

"No. Now is the time." I said walking further into the house. "I told her to snatch up Andy when she had the chance. That Frank was no good, but did she li..."

"Stop!" Pete yelled at me causing Non to jump in his arms. "Your friend just watched her boyfriend making love to some random girl and all you can say is I told you so?" he helped Non to her feet, "I tried to stick with you, no matter how many people said she's not worth it. She's a pain, she just wants to control everyone. You know what I told them she just cares so much, that it hurts her when the people she loves doesn't take her advice. Well apparently I was wrong you don't care if the people around you get hurt just so long as you are right."

"Pete..."

"Don't, don't try and make me see something that's not there. My friend..." he nodded toward Non, "needs me right now." I watched as he took Non into her old room.

"Why is he mad at me. I'm not the one who cheated on her." Ray just looked at me like she wanted to hit me, and left the room.

(Travis's POV)

I checked the FedEx site to see if the package had been received. It was my work was done. There was no way that I could get blamed cause I hadn't marked the package at all. Life was good.

Chapter 43

(Nonnie's POV)

Pete sat next to me on the bed. "Non, are you okay?"

"Yeah...Uh I'm fine." I shook my head hoping to clear away some of the fog. "I should get back to Andy's." I said standing up; I wanted...no I needed to get away

from them. They were waiting to see me fall apart and I wanted to do that alone.

"I think you should stay here."

"No I should leave, and you should go talk to Janay." I felt a lump form in my throat as I left the room. "Just take deep breaths and keep walking. Then you won't cry." I thought to myself. As I walked toward Andy's place, I realized that I didn't want to go there and ruin their evening. Andy was in love with her, and she loved him. The last thing they needed was me, bringing down the mood. I kept walking to the only other place I could think to go.

As I opened the bars heavy door and walked in I immediately recognized the bartender. Chris I hadn't been back here since that night Frank found me the first time. Chris saw me and waved I sat down at the bar. "Long time no see," Chris said.

"Yeah, I've been out of town for a while now. But its good to be home." I don't know why I lied I guess I didn't want to go into my bad history with drinking. I felt someone's arm snake around me, and I knew

who it was. He started kissing down my neck. I pushed him away.

"Hi beautiful." He said his blue eyes shown bright in the dimly lit bar.

"Clark, how's it going?" I was a little uneasy. Last time we saw each other I was running out of a venue.

"What brings you back?" Chris sat a shot in front of me.

"I'd have to say the liquor," I drink it down, then motioned for another.

"I'm buying." Clark said. I sat there drinking and talking to Clark, this time much like the last I didn't care to know anything about him. "I think you had too much to drink," Clark said.

I knew I had had too much, really I knew I shouldn't even be drinking. Frank was going to... oh right forget about Frank. He's hurt you for the last time. "Clark can you help me up?" I said, he came around the barstool and placed one of my arms around his neck. He was taller than I was so he had to lean down a bit to keep it there. "Goodnight Chris," I said. We

walked for a while until we arrived at an apartment building.

"Where are we?" I slurred

"My place" he got tired of trying to help me walk and lifted me into his arms carrying me into one of the apartments. He laid me down on the bed and disappeared, I rolled over and closed my eyes. Then I felt someone move my hair and start kissing down the back of my neck. Their hand moved around to cup my breast. The thought crossed my mind for a second that it was Frank, but I quickly dismissed that. Frank was all the way in another state, and I didn't care. He was history. I turned over and kissed Clark, running my tongue along his bottom lip begging him for entrance. He opened his mouth and I explored every inch.

It all happened so fast in seconds we were naked and as he climbed on top of me I was happy that the lights were off cause he wouldn't see the tears that were falling from my eyes. This was the first time I was having sex with someone I didn't love.

Chapter 44

(Frank's POV)

I tried again this time dialing Non's number very carefully. It rang and rang then went to voice mail. I'd been trying to call her since last night. I was calling to tell her that they had cancelled the last few shows so I would be headed to LA to pick her up early. I decided to risk talking to Janay and called Ray's house. It rang a couple of times than a voice I didn't recognize came over the phone. "Nonnie Woods where the hell are you!?"

"Who is this and what do you mean where is Nonnie?" I said the worry evident in my voice.

"Who is this?" they questioned back.

"This is Frank where is Nonnie?"

"Oh you. Look, don't call here and don't show up here. Non doesn't need people like you around." Then the line went dead. I redialed the number.

"Hello?" Ray's voice came over the line this time.

"Ray what's going on?"

"Oh, we saw your little sex tape. I can't believe you did that to Non. Do you know how much you hurt her?"

"Hang up the phone," that voice said in the background.

"Pete, shut up."

"Non might call." He said

"Look I would love to give you a piece of my mind but I have to keep the line open." Then she hung up without even telling me what was wrong.

"Gerard I gotta get to LA," I said walking into the common area of the bus. "Something's happened to Non."

"I'm coming to." He said all the other guys said the same thing. We told the bus driver to take us to the nearest airport. I was going to be a long flight we were all the way in Florida.

(Travis's POV)

I watched as the MCR bus swerved and headed in a different direction. I picked up my phone and dialed Frank. "Non?"

"No it's Travis, where are you guys going?"

"Look I can't talk were going to the airport something's happened to Non." Then he hung up in my ear. "Hey bus driver I got a family emergency take me to the airport." I knew this would happen I just didn't expect it to happen so soon.

Chapter 25

A Love That's So Demanding (45.46,47)

Chapter 45

(Nonnie's POV)

I woke up the sun shining in my face. I pulled the blanket over my head to block it out. "Hey time to wake up," I moved the blanket and Clark is inches away from my face, with a glass of water and two aspirin. "Here take these." I did and he moved around the room picking up clothes and stuff off the floor. "I probably should have cleaned before you got here." I looked over in the corner and there sat a beautiful Fender guitar.

"You play?" I asked my throat a little sore.

"Yeah, I told you about my band last night." Then he nodded, "How much of last night do you remember?" he said cautiously.

"Enough," I said getting out of the bed quickly. My being sick from a hang over would have to wait I gotta get out of here.

"Wait where you going."

"I don't date guys in bands," any more.

"What if they're in a really good band?"

"Especially if they're in a really good band." I said with a smile pulling on my clothes.

"Look just...come see us play tonight at The Wire House,"

"I don't do crowds."

"Good cause its only going to be about twenty people. My band is pretty new. Its called Octoberfall."

"Sure, I'll be there." I had no intention of going there. I was going to go to Andy's shower and forget about the past twenty-four hours. Frank, Clark, everything. As I left Clark's apartment I pulled out my phone to

call Andy and tell him I was okay and not to worry about me. I had at least thirty missed calls most from Frank.

I went to the menu and erased all the messages. I don't think I could stand to hear his voice with out crying. I walked until I got to Andy's house I was scared cause I knew he was going to be mad at me for not calling.

I took a deep breath as I opened the door. Andy sat with Claire next to him both of them were watching TV. When I stepped in they both looked up. "Non where the..." he started to yell. Claire put her hand over his mouth before he could finish.

"Non are you okay?"

"Yeah I'm fine, I'm going to go take a shower okay."

"After that you need to go over to Ray's she's been worried sick."

"I'll just go over there now, I don't want her to get too stressed okay." I went back to my room grabbed some clothes and my toiletries and left. I had to remember to thank Claire later for that. I walked into Ray's

apartment, hoping that Janay wasn't there. I couldn't deal with her right now. My main concern was baby Beckett, and calming Ray down. "Hey everybody," I said. Looking around the room, everyone but Andy and Claire were here.

"Non we were worried," Pete said

"Why I'm a big girl I can take care of myself." They didn't know how untrue that was. I'd always had someone taking care of me, I'd always depended on someone else for something that I needed. Now it was time for me to grow up and get over it. My friends weren't my friends, and the only person I could trust was myself.

Chapter 46

(Frank's POV)

The cool night air hit my face as I exited the airport and immediately hailed a taxi to take me and everyone else to Ray's. Yup I do mean everyone. Including Travis, I was surprised when he rushed onto the plane right before take off he said, "I'm Family too." I wish he wasn't here. Gerard, Mikey,

Bob, and Ray were here too. It was the longest ride of my life. How did she find out about Trisha, how much did she know. If I explain things I just need to talk to her. God I hope she will forgive me.

We pulled up to the familiar apartment building and everyone got out. They all followed me up to the door. I knocked. "Who is it?" I stood there frozen, unable to say even my name.

"It's Gerard," he said from behind me. I turned and nodded at him, saying thank you. I heard some shuffling and then the door opened. None other than Non flew out into my arms.

"Gerard!" she screamed. Then she looked into my face, realizing that I wasn't him. She quickly pushed away from me, only allowing me a small glimpse of the pain she was feeling. She immediately slammed the door behind her. "Everyone is welcome here but Frank Iero, he better go find a hotel room."

"Non...please... just let me talk to you."

"No!"

"Please,"

"Go away Frank!" I could hear in her voice she was trying to hold it together and failing miserably.

"Not until you come and talk to me,"

"Look she said to go away so just leave," it was the voice from the phone earlier.

"Nobody was talking to you, Pete. Mind your business." Her meddling friends were starting to wear on my patience.

"It is my business, she's like a sister to me, and if she doesn't want you around, you should leave."

"Non please, just give me ten minutes." I decided to ignore him, he wasn't important.

"Frank just go away, Gerard tell him to go away," she said, I could hear that she was crying. I wasn't going to give up though. I couldn't lose her. Gerard put his hand on my shoulder.

"Not until she talks to me." I said glaring at him.

"Give her some time." he said.

"No, then it will just go on forever, I need to tell her what happened so she understands that it was a

mistake." I shook his hand off my shoulder and touched the outside of the door. "Non, please...two minutes."

Chapter 47

(Nonnie's POV)

I stood at the door tears falling freely. I put my hand up to the door and laid my head against it closing my eyes. Flashes of the tape played out on the inside of my eyelids. I can't do this. I left the door and went back to my old room leaving Pete, Ray, Andy, Bill, Janay, and Claire in the living room. I closed and locked the door behind me. Then I headed over to the window, the same one I always used to sneak out off and climbed out shimming down the drain pipe. When I hit the ground, I stopped to catch my breath.

Andy's house was my destination. He wouldn't think to look for me there. I started walking the opposite direction. I would have to take the long way around to avoid the guys. "Nonnie!" I turned to see Mikey standing on the curb. I didn't wait for the others to join him I just took off running. I could hear their

feet pounding behind me all of them were coming for me.

"Non!" I felt some ones arms circle around my waist and lift me off the ground. "Just let me talk to you." Frank said into my ear, I let my body rest against him. I was out of breath, and done fighting him. "I'm sorry, I swear I was so drunk that night. I don't remember having more than one drink but when I woke up the next morning she was in bed with me." I closed my eyes and listened to his voice. "Please, I ..." he both went silent. All that could be heard was our breathing.

"I can't Frank, I can't believe you. Your just like..."

"No! I'm not like any one, especially Travis. I had too much to drink and I made a mistake. Please Non." he placed me back on the ground. I turned and looked into his eyes the moon light made them glow a haunting green. I couldn't help it I wanted his arms around me. His lips on mine. I wanted to have never seen that tape. So I wouldn't know that she existed. I leaned in so that my forehead touched his.

"Okay," I had to believe it, I knew this would happen if I saw him. I would forgive him after one look into his eyes. He wrapped his arms around me and I cried some more as he walked us back to the group. I couldn't look at any of my LA friends. I knew they would disapprove.

"Non?" Pete said, "You can't be serious your just going to forgive him?"

"Mind your business," Frank said, "Non lets go get your stuff, we are going home tonight."

"No she's not going away with you again, Non please." Ray said, "Just stay in LA till the baby is born." I looked at her. I was happy that she wanted me to stay. Janay just stood in the back shaking her head and looking at me with disgust.

"It's time for me to go home Ray."

"Non, you have a home here." Andy said stepping forward.

"It's my decision, I know you are all just trying to help. But LA is just not the place for me anymore. I'll come back to see the baby once its born I promise,

but I can't stay here anymore." I pushed my way though the group and only one person didn't move out of my way. I looked up to see a very angry Travis.

Chapter 26

A Love That's So Demanding (48,49,50)

Chapter 48

(Travis's POV)

She forgave him? After all my hard work she just goes crawling back to him. "Non your making a mistake." I said.

"Travis, mind your business this is between him and me." she said, but I could tell that she was talking to the whole group not just me.

"Look we all care about you so..."

"You care about me? You, the man who drugged and almost raped me cares about me?"

"What..." I said.

"You drugged her?" Frank said stepping in front of her.

"No she drank too much."

"Travis I'm not that stupid I know I only had one drink that night." she said from behind him. " You even got mad at me when in pushed you away. You said that I wouldn't cheat on him with you, but I could cheat on you with him. I remember it all until I blacked out." she looked like she was getting madder with each word.

"Non, you don't know what your talking about."

"Oh you mean that lie you told, Frank. I only let that slide so he wouldn't ruin the tour, and his career." then she got this look on her face, like a piece of the puzzle just fell into place. "Frank was he with you that night?" Frank looked at her then at me.

"Yes, he...introduced me to her." Oh crap.

Chapter 50

(Frank's POV)

I stood there stunned into silence as Nonnie went on. "You drugged him too didn't you. You thought that if you could get the two of us apart..." without warning she pushed me out of the way and pounced onto Travis. Arms flailing. They both tumbled to the ground, I only snapped out of it when I saw Travis hit Non hard in the face. I quickly moved to pull them apart. She kept trying to get back over to him. "Why do you hate me so much?" she screamed at him. "I loved you first, then you gave up on us. We both hurt each other and yet after it was all out in the open I forgave you. I trusted you."

"You cheated on me with my best friend," Nonnie stopped struggling in my arms, " You ran away carrying my child. Then when I finally do find you again your with him. You wouldn't even talk to me." he stepped until he was inches away from Nonnie's face.

"You don't know that the baby was yours," she said quietly she was starting to cry again.

"You don't know that is wasn't either," he yelled. I moved Non so that she was behind me.

"Travis I think you should go now." I said.

"Screw you Frank. You think your so much better than me, but you cheated on her just like I did."

"No..."

"Yes I was drugged that night to, but it doesn't even matter cause you two were sneaking around behind my back ... what was it you said Frank almost a year before I even thought to cheat on her." now he was inches from my face, " She's just a slut and ..." I swung hitting him square in the jaw. Then I turned and pushed Non into Gerard's arms. I knew that Travis would come back and I didn't want Non in the way. He countered by hitting me in the stomach I doubled over from the pain giving him enough time to bring his foot up to my shoulder causing me to topple over. Before he could stomp on me I grabbed his foot making him fall over. I scrambled to crawl on to of him, then I started raining down punches. I didn't care where I hit him just so long as the hits landed. He was swinging back, hitting me every once and a while. I could hear Non screaming for someone to stop us. It happened in seconds but it felt like time

had slowed down until finally I felt someone grabbing my arms and pulling me off of Travis.

Chapter 50

(Nonnie's POV)

I stood back as Gerard, Mikey, Ray, and William pulled Frank and Travis apart. I was crying again, cause he was so right about everything. I had cheated on him first. "My two best friends betrayed me in the worst way, and you expect me to just roll over and take it?" Travis said shaking off Ray and Williams hold.

"Travis..." what was I supposed to say? I'd broken his heart, before he even knew it.

"No screw you both," he turned and started to walk away. I held myself in place I wouldn't run after him. I couldn't explain why I wanted to run after him. I was guilty of everything he'd said, but the things he'd done to me since. I felt arms circle around my waist, and a familiar smell came across my nostrils.

"Come on," he said and started pulling me back toward the house. The others had already started

moving into the house with out us. "None of what he said is true."

"No, Frank it's all true that's how he knew it would hurt me so much. Frank you gotta believe me when I say I thought I was doing the right thing." A dull ache was starting to become apparent, from the spot that Travis had hit me.

"I do, and I know..." I was feeling so guilty now, the last thing I wanted to do was go into this house and deal with my LA friends.

"Frank?"

"Yeah?"

"Lets go find a hotel to stay in." I said giving him my most pitiful face.

"Okay, come on," I looked at the door, and it opened to reveal Ray. "Oh during all the drama I wasn't able to tell you congratulations."

"Thank you, Non come on, it's been a long night. You and Frank can sleep in your old room and the others

can camp out in the living room for the night." I saw Janay walk by the door and roll her eyes.

"That's okay Ray, I think it would be better for the two of us to stay in a hotel."

"Nonsense, your staying here." she said grabbing my hand, and pulling me into the front door. "You know I never really got to know any of you guys." She said to the guys.

"Well, that's Mikey, Gerard, Ray, and Bob." I said motioning to each guy.

"Nice to meet you all, this is Bill, Pete, Andy, Claire, and Janay." When she said Janay I saw the guys all give a slight nod like they knew about all the things she's tried to get me with someone else.

"I'm going to bed," she announced, "Pete you coming,"

"No, I'm going to get to know Non's friends. I'll be to bed later." She walked back to her room in a huff. We all sat down, I was still bothered by the night's events. I'd lost to friends, one was well way over due. The other, I didn't understand.

"You should go talk to her," Frank whispered, I hadn't been paying attention, to anything. They had ordered pizza and I'd even started eating a slice. I couldn't even remember picking it up. They were also watching Pete and Mikey play guitar hero. "I know its killing you," he said with a smile. I looked at him.

"I didn't do anything wrong,"

"When have you ever had to do something wrong to piss someone off?"

"But I..."

"Look do you wanna salvage the friendship?" I didn't know, I mean Janay and I had come out here together, I was miserable, she was happy. She tried to help me find happiness here. She even tried to get me to tell them the truth when I told her about the baby.

"Yes," I said, "but its up to her,"

"No its up to you, she seems like the stubborn type, she's not going to admit she's wrong. She's not going to apologize. You wanna save the friendship. Let her win, it's the only way to avoid losing your friend."

"But wouldn't my admitting I was wrong mean that I should be with Andy and not you. That would also mean that I should be staying here."

"Look, just because you say it's the right decision doesn't mean it's the right decision for you. You can't live your life for her, just like she can't live hers for you."

"When did you become so wise?" I said with a smile.

"After I fell in love with my best friend and almost lost her." He leaned in and kissed me. I broke the kiss and got up off the floor where I'd been sitting. I hope she doesn't throw a shoe at me.

Chapter 27

A Love That's So Demanding (51,52)

Chapter 51

(Janay's POV)

I lay in my bed with a shoe in hand ready to throw it at the first sign of Pete coming in the room. How could he sit out there and associate with them. After what just happened out side I was surprised to hear them laughing and just genuinely having a good time. It made my skin crawl.

I heard the door open and someone said, "Can I come in?" I looked up to see Non. I could see that she was getting a pretty bad bruise where Travis had hit her. I nodded my head, I was actually really hoping to tell

her how much better her life would be with out Frank, but before I could say anything she said. "You were right, I have made all the wrong decisions," I was caught off guard.

"So does this mean you are going to break up with Frank?" I said trying not to let the happiness I felt show in my voice.

"No, I've made all the wrong decisions for you. Meaning if I were you they would have been wrong, but since I'm not you they were right. I made the right decisions for me." I understood what she said even though it was a jumble of mixed up thoughts and I could tell that they weren't something that she had thought up her self.

"Frank told you that didn't he?"

"Yeah," she said with a smile, "He's a really smart guy. What I said though is true; you came to LA running from something dangerous. I just ran cause I was scared. I know that since we have been here you have been trying to help me find happiness, but the one thing that always makes me happy is sitting in the next room. I want nothing more than for the man

I love and the girl I has become like a sister to me to get along." That was a cute speech.

"I would love to help you with that, but I can't. You don't see the control he has over you. Did you see how easily you forgave him earlier, and now you are all lovie dovie with him."

"Last... look I have my reasons for that. You don't have to worry about us anymore. We are going to go home and be fine."

"Wait last what?" she got this guilty look on her face.

"Nothing,"

"Nonnie Woods don't play with me." I said letting my voice change into one that sounded a lot like a mother talking to a child.

"Look are you going to come out here and be nice to my family or not,"

"They are not your family," I hated when she said that it sounded so stupid. She wasn't related to anyone in the next room. When we came out here I was all she had. Then he came back and took her

away where she as predicted got into more trouble, when he was supposed to look out for her.

"Yes they are and if you don't want to be apart of them than you don't want to be a part of me."

"Then maybe I don't, I can't just sit and watch as you ruin your life. He's no good for you or anyone else." Her face changed from pleading to anger.

"Fine I tried to come in here and be reasonable, the funniest part of this is that Frank oh yes he does have a name is the one who told me to come in here and try and fix this. But you are just so stubborn."

"That's right I'm stubborn and selfish and I don't care about my friends just when I'm right," I yelled at her back as she slammed the door behind her.

Chapter 52

(Frank's POV)

I was in the middle of crushing Bill in guitar hero when, out of the corner of my eye I saw Non slam Janay's door and go into the door across the hall. "You better go check on her," Rachael said. I looked at

her and she just nodded. I turned and walked down the hall as I got to the door I paused.

What ever happened in that room obviously didn't go well, so she's either going to be pissed off or crying. Both didn't mean anything good for me. I opened the door and walked in closing it behind me.

I turned to see Non changing into her pajamas, a pair of blue boy shorts with the superman S on the butt, and a blue t shirt with it on the front. "Now that is cute." I said walking over to her. She gave a sad smile.

"Frank, so far between the two of us there has been a lot of lies. it always comes out later, but only after someone gets hurt and I'm tired of that cycle." she motioned for me to sit down. "Last night after watching that ... tape. I was upset so I went out. There's this bar not far from here I used to go there after..." she paused there I knew she was referring to after she lost the baby. I took her hand in my own and she continued. " Well I went there and I got really drunk, and... and I slept with someone else." she didn't look at me. I was livid with anger, but I had

to think before I said something to ruin the what we were trying to save.

"Okay," I said the same thing she said once I got the chance to speak to her. She looked up at me in surprise. "You were upset." it hurt like hell to say that, the mere thought of her with someone else made me sick to my stomach, but I guess now we were even. I took off my shirt and jeans and climbed into bed. She followed shortly after. "You know, the recording studio isn't expecting us for another two weeks or so. We could stay here in LA for a while longer if you wanted." I said as I wrapped my arms around her.

This was a peace offering for her LA friends they just didn't know it yet. I wanted them to see that Non and I belonged together. in the short time I got to talk to them in the living room they seemed to genuinely care for Non's well being. Even Andy seemed pretty cool, not that I was going to be best friends with him or anything like that.

"Frank, there's one more thing." she said.

"What?" I said moving away from her enough that I could see her face. she took another deep breath.

"Promise you won't get mad?"

"Babe is what you are about to ask me going to make me mad?"

"Not if you promise not to be." she said with a nervous smile.

"The only reason you ask someone to promise not to get mad is if you know whatever you are about to say is going to make them mad."

"Okay, so do you promise?"

"Fine, yes I promise," I braced myself for more bad news.

"I've been staying at Andy's for the past week." I took a deep breath so I could fully process what she had just said, she has been staying with a man who at one point in time was clearly in love with her. Wait...

"Is he the one you were with..."

"Oh no I wouldn't do that to Claire. He and she were meant for each other."

"You swear nothing happened between the two of you?"

"I swear." I pulled her back into my arms as she explained that things were weird here because of Janay. Then she looked at me.

"Okay, but that's all right." I don't think I could take any more.

"Just one more thing and you really have to promise not to be mad," she said.

"What?" I said cautiously.

"I love you," she said a smile playing across her lips.

"Very funny,"

"I thought so myself," she said brushing her lips across mine, then she laid her head on my chest and we drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 28

A Love That's So Demanding (53,54,55)

Chapter 53

(Janay's POV)

I was so mad at Non I didn't hear when Pete came in. I looked over he had his hands up ready to defend himself against me. "Is it safe to approach?" I just nodded, I wasn't mad at him anymore all my anger was concentrated on Non. "Good cause there isn't a free spot on the floor in the living room for me to sleep on with everyone else here. So... are you and Non cool now?"

"No, we aren't ever going to be as long as she's with him." Pete looked at me like I was crazy.

"You do realize that this is the exact same way Ray treated you when you were with...what's his name. Right?" I hadn't even thought about Rick since I came out here. his face flashed in my mind. His smile, that laugh. This hadn't happened in a long time. I was reminding myself why I'd been with him.

"That was different..."

"Your right that was different, you were being abused. Frank is doing everything in his power to keep that girl out of harms way. He's the only one she listens to."

"And that's the problem he has way too much control over her."

"Maybe they have that control over each other. Have you seen the way they look at each other."

"I try my best to ignore them." I said rolling my eyes. He just signed and crawled into bed next to me. he turned away from me, which is how we've been sleeping since last night. Back to back cause we've had this same fight since she saw the tape.

(Pete's POV)

This is really starting to get old. I love Janay, even though she keeps me at arms length I understand. She's afraid I'll be like that other guy she was with. That's why I've put up with this for this long, but I can only take so much. She's so freaking stubborn its not funny. I understand that she's afraid for her friend, I was too when I didn't know the guy. But tonight, the way he talked to her. I was playing the game, but I was close enough to hear every word, which is why I lost. I knew that Janay wouldn't agree with the "I made the right decision for me" thing. I just hoped that she might consider that someone might be able to think on their own. I closed my eyes. Maybe I can try and fix this in the morning.

Chapter 54

(Nonnie's POV)

I walked down the hall to the shower still in my pajamas, Frank followed close behind me. We were both giggling knowing how much fun we were about to have in the shower. Then Janay's door opened and we went silent. There stood Janay and Pete.

"Morning," Pete whispered.

"Morning," Frank whispered back. "We were just headed to the shower, we thought everyone else was asleep."

"So did we," Pete said, Janay and I just stared at each other the whole time. While they had their conversation. "We were just about to go make breakfast, but then I got the idea that the four of us go get something at say Ihop?" I saw Janay give him a death glare, one that I was rather fond of, I used to get it a lot.

"I don't..." she started.

"I think that would be great. Well just go get dressed," Frank said, now it was my turn to give the death glare. He grabbed my hand and led me back to our room.

"Frank what are you doing." I said as he picked up his jeans off the floor.

"I'm getting dressed. You should too." He said smiling.

"Frank did you forget that Janay hates us both?"

"No that look on her face said it all, and I'm used to it by now. You on the other hand are going to miss having that friend." I looked down at my hands.

"Maybe so, but I tried my hardest last night and it didn't work so I'm done trying."

"Well, now its my turn." He said handing me a pair of my own jeans.

"I don't have any clean clothes here, and I can't borrow any from Janay."

"Fine we can go by Andy's and pick up your stuff at the same time." he just had an answer for everything didn't he.

"Okay," I said pulling on the same clothes I had on yesterday. Then an idea hit me. "Wouldn't you rather stay here and take a nice long shower?" I said walking up to him and wrapping my arms around his neck. My lips barely touched his. I heard him swallow.

"As good as that sounds, we have forever to do that. Right now I gotta win your friends trust." I let out a

grunt in frustration and went to finished putting on my clothes.

Chapter 55

(Janay's POV)

I followed Pete outside to his car. While we waited for Non and Frank to get dressed we went back into my room. Where I proceeded to have a royal fit, he shouldn't meddle in my affairs like this. Somehow he convinced me to go along with it anyway.

Non and Frank got in the back seat, I tried not to gag as I watched her slide into the middle so she was close to him. He reached around her and put her seatbelt on her like she was a child. Then put his own on. I reached for the door handle, but before I could open it Pete locked them. He looked over at me and smiled, starting the car. "Uh Pete do you mind taking me to Andy's and letting me grab my stuff?"

"Sure no problem," he said, "Do you wanna go now or after breakfast?"

"Now," she said as I said.

"After breakfast," our eyes locked in the rear view mirror.

"We can do it after breakfast." Frank said, then he whispered something in her ear and she looked away. Then he looked at me and smiled.

"This doesn't mean I like you even a little bit," I thought to myself. I watched as we pulled up to Andy's apartment.

"Pete, its okay I can get my stuff after we eat," she said.

"No it's no problem, besides your still wearing the same cloths as yesterday. There's no way you are comfortable, at the very least go change into something clean,"

"Are you trying to say I smell?" she joked.

"Yes," he said smiling at her over his shoulder.

"Fine you win," she got out of the car and Frank followed her into the building.

"Pete, they said they could wait,"

"Only cause you were being inconsiderate,"

"No I wasn't I was being hungry." I said in my defense. "You know if I don't eat I get sick and can't eat, and so does she."

"You think that's why she took so little time to change?" I looked up to see Non and Frank running back out to the car. She was wearing a clean shirt, and a different pair of jeans.

"Sorry it took so long," she said with a smile they repeated the seatbelt thing making me nauseous again, and we headed off to Ihop. The hostess sat us in a booth, I'd been tempted to ask if we could be seated separately. I knew that would really piss Pete off so I decided against it. I sat across from Non and Frank was across from Pete. She and I just sat there staring at our menus. Then the waitress came and took our orders taking away our only distraction. She started playing with the salt and peppershakers. Pete and Frank were acting as though there was nothing wrong. Having a very animated conversation about music. I drifted off into my own thoughts.

[I]"Hey Ray, lets hurry up the concert is going to start." We ran from the train station to the venue,

there was snow on the ground. I hated winter in New York, it made the city seem even dirtier that it was. Which I will admit was pretty dirty. We could already hear the music playing inside the club. We handed our tickets to the bouncer and ran inside, quickly pushing our way to the front. This was one of my favorite bands, Sugarcult.

They played all my favorite songs, She's The Blade, California, Stuck In America. With each song they made the crowed sway and move to the music. I love concerts; they are like a drug. Ask anyone who goes to them after a concert you go through withdraw, most call it post concert depression. I'd have to agree. As they played the last song it was already starting to set in. Once the song ended the band stuck around I was able to get my poster signed something I will treasure for the rest of my life. Or at least I thought so as some ignorant fan girl grabbed it from my hands ripping it down the middle. A string of curse words followed her as she ran away. I sat down on a barstool and drank another cup of the free water.

"You can have mine," someone said from behind me. "Or you can go ask them to sign another one, they seem pretty cool I'm sure they won't mind." I turned to see. A tall white guy with snakebites, his hair was black. What got my attention though was his eyes a striking icy blue. They went against all his other dark features.

"No, I don't want to bother them," I said. I wasn't lying I didn't want them to think I was going to sell it on ebay or anything.

"I'll go with you and you can show them that one, I'm sure they won't mind." Those eyes just wouldn't be denied.

"Okay," I said he took my hand and I felt my pulse race. The band was really nice and he was right they didn't mind signing another poster for me, in fact they gave me a new one for the one that was torn. I thanked the guy and ran off to find Ray, I didn't get far before someone grabbed my elbow.

"Hey," it was that same guy, "Can I get your name at least?"

"At least? Oh I'm sorry, I didn't realize I hadn't told you, I'm Janay."

"I'm Rick." He said with a smile.[/I]

Our food had arrived and suddenly I wasn't hungry anymore. I just wanted to go home and go back to be. Thinking about Rick always made me lose my appetite.

Chapter 29

A Love That's So Demanding (56,57,58,59)

Chapter 56

(Nonnie's POV)

I watched as Janay moved her food around on her plate, she hadn't eaten a bite. Finally the guys asked for the check paid for the food and we left. As we walked out I let the guys walk ahead hoping that Janay would catch on and slow down. Thankfully she did. "Are you okay?" I asked. I couldn't help but be a little worried she only go that look when Rick was involved. He was her first love.

"Yeah I'm fine." she said putting on a fake smile.

"I'm not buying it, please just put aside the fight for a minute and tell me what's wrong." she signed.

"Okay you want honesty?" I nodded. "You see the way Frank and you are now? That's how it used to be with me and Rick in the beginning. I don't want you to make the same mistake I made."

"There's one big difference here," I said trying not to get made at what she was saying Frank was capable of. "Frank has never and will never hurt me, and if he ever did I would come to you and Ray cause you're my best friends and I know you will both always be there for me." she looked me in the eyes.

"I thought Rick wouldn't ever hit me too." she said as if that proved her point and walked to the car where the guys were waiting.

Chapter 57

(Pete's POV)

I could tell when we got into the car something between the two of them had changed. The girls weren't talking and laughing but both were in their own thoughts. "So does this mean you two are

friends again?" I asked. "Inquiring minds want to know."

"I think we've reached an understanding." Non said.

"Yeah, we have." Janay added. We stopped by Andy's on the way back and helped Non pack up her stuff.

"So Frank and I were thinking that maybe we would stay here a couple more weeks, you know after the other's head back to New York."

"That sounds like a great idea," I said and I meant it. It would give Janay a chance to see that Frank and Non were good together and that she was safe with him. Then maybe she could concentrate on us. I am ready for her to move in with me only I don't know how to ask her. I'm scared of scaring her away.

"Yeah I like that idea," Janay said sincerely.

"Okay so let me be the one to tell Ray, I hope she's okay with us staying here for a week or so."

"She'll love it, and you know it." Janay said. We walked up the stairs to the apartment to hear screaming.

"NO Son of a...!" it was a male voice so I was a little less concerned as we opened the door. To see all the guys from my band, Frank's band and Bill's band had come over and were having some kind of batter fight, I'm not sure if it was cake batter, or what but it was all over everything. Then Rachael came from down the hall her mouth fell open as Mikey let a huge gob of batter fly strait into her face. Everyone froze waiting to see her reaction. Her mouth turned up into a smile and she started laughing. Everyone else joined her.

"Ray, I am soo sorry, I'll clean this up." Nonnie said walking over to her. It's a pretty well known fact that Rachael is a bit of a clean freak.

"You better not touch a thing, they are going to clean up every spill." she said laughing. "And you don't have to apologize either, you weren't even here."

"Come on while they clean up I need to talk to you," Nonnie said grabbing Janay and Ray's hands and heading back toward Ray's room.

Chapter 58

(Nonnie's POV)

Ray closed the door behind us after grabbing a towel to wipe her face off. "So are you guys friends again" she said looking between the two of us.

"Uh, kinda. We have agreed to disagree." Janay said. I was happy to hear that, cause it was obviously news to me.

"So any way I wanted to first ask if it was okay for me and Frank to stay here for a week or so."

"Of course you can, you know you didn't have to ask." Ray said.

"Yeah that was kinda a set up for my next question."

"Yeah what?"

"Will you guys come back to New York. Just for the week, it's just that this will be the first time I'm back there since this whole thing started. Frank will be there and so will the guys, but I would much rather have my two best friends there."

"Sure I haven't been there in a couple years, it will be good to see the old neighbor hood." Ray said with a smile.

"I can't do that Non," Janay said.

"Look we know where he likes to hang out and stuff, New York is a big city. We can avoid him." I said, she was afraid of running into Rick. I could understand too. I only saw the tip of the iceberg, that last day when we left. He's sent her to the hospital a couple of times. "And You will have Pete, Bill, and Frank looking out for you." She rolled her eyes when I said Frank. "Please?"

"If Pete wants to go, we'll go okay," I jumped from my chair and hugged her; we didn't hug much she wasn't the touching type. But I was just so happy. "You're hugging me," she said. I let her go and laughed.

"I gotta go tell Frank." I said turning and leaving the room.

Chapter 59

(Janay's POV)

I looked at Ray once Non left the room. This wasn't a good idea, I could feel it in my bones. "It's going to be fine, I promise."

"Ray you can't promise that no one can. I'm going to go see if Pete even wants to go okay." I got up and left the room. All the guys had some kind of cleaning materials and were cleaning up the mess they had made. Non smiled over at me as she told Frank about the trip to New York. He looked over and smiled at me, I was starting to understand how she could fall for that smile. Hey I never said he wasn't a looker.

"Pete can we go talk please?" he smiled and wrapped his arms around me.

"Any time." He said I led him back to my room.

"So they want us to go to New York with them for a week, you know just to help Non get settled and everything."

"Really...I mean good. Right?" I smiled he didn't understand that I wanted to know if he wanted to come with me.

"So I wanted to know if you wanted to go cause if you don't want to go I won't go."

"Do you wanna go?" why does he have to ask questions like that.

"Yes and no, see I wanna go home see my family for a little while, but I'm scared that I will run into Rick. I know New York is a big city and I probably won't but I don't want to take any chances."

"Look, you don't have to worry about him. Cause even if we run into him I won't let him touch you." How do I explain that I wasn't afraid of him hitting me. I was afraid that he still had that control over me. That man could have made me cut off my own foot had he asked.

[i]"Janay!"

"What Rick?" I said sitting down my bags. Ray and I had just gotten back from the mall shopping. I'd gotten him something special for tonight.

"Where the hell have you been?"

"I went shopping. Why?"

"Cause your boyfriend Brody called." Oh crap. I know he saw the panic on my face. Brody wasn't my boyfriend he was a co-worker who was just calling to make sure I got the memo that they sent out, but I knew that he wouldn't believe that.

"He's not my boyfriend, he's my co-worker. I'll tell him on Monday not to call me at home on the weekends okay." I said hoping that my explanation would calm him down. It was painfully clear that it didn't work as he pinned me by my arms against the wall.

"Don't lie to me!" he screamed inches from my face.

"I'm not lying," I heard my voice trembling. I hated when he was like this.

"Janay, I'm not stupid."

"Hey what are you doing?" Ray said walking into the front door.

"Nothing," he said releasing me. "We were just talking." She looked between the two of us with suspicion.

"Janay I need to talk to you." She headed into the living room. I went to follow her only to have Rick, grab my arm and pull me back.

"I'm sorry baby, I just... I just don't wanna lose you."

"Janay!" Ray called from the next room.

"I'll be there in a minute." I yelled back, "Baby, I'm not going anywhere okay," he crashed his lips to mine. As I tried to hold back tears. Then I pulled away. "I'll be right back okay babe," I walked into the living room to see Ray sitting on the couch.

"What the hell was that?"

"Nothing,"

"It didn't look like nothing to me. It looked like he had you pinned against the wall. You weren't smiling Janay."

"It was nothing okay, drop it I'm fine and so is he." She looked like she wanted to fight about this, but Rick came up behind me and wrapped his arms around me.[/i]

"So looks like we are going to New York next week." Pete said with a smile. I smiled back hoping he wouldn't see my hesitance.

Chapter 30

A Love That's So Demanding (60,61)

Chapter 60

(Frank's POV)

This past week has been so much fun. Gerard, Mikey, Ray and Bob all went back to New York the next day to set things up for when Rachael and Janay came to visit. We would all be staying at Gerard's place. Bill was coming and so was Pete. Non wanted Andy to come with Claire, but I think the idea made him a little uncomfortable. I would have been fine with it though.

Janay hasn't been her old overly protective self. She's been quiet. I asked Non what was wrong and she told

me about Rick, I vaguely remember the guy that came running after the cab pulled off when all this started. He didn't look like anything to be scared of. I do remember that he was a prick to Travis, and maybe a little paranoid.

Today though we were leaving for New York, we were headed to the airport now. Non was sleeping with her head on my shoulder. It amazed me how peaceful she looked with all that was going on around her. I could tell though that she was a little worried about Janay. They were back to being friends and Janay had even warmed up a little to me. She's started calling me by my name instead of him and that guy. It's not much but it's a step in the right direction.

"Non wake up you can sleep some more on the plane ok," I said as we pulled into the parking lot. We all got out, and grabbed our bags, New York here we come.

Chapter 61

(Nonnie's POV)

I lay starring at the ceiling of the living room of Gerard's house, my new home. After we arrived here in NY everyone but me wanted to take a nap. I wonder why? I just said okay and they all went to their rooms. For the time being Frank and I were going to sleep on the pullout bed in the living room. Janay and Pete were staying in what would turn into Frank's and my room, and Rachael and Bill had taken over Mikey's room. I laughed when he whined about not wanting to stay in Gerard's room with him. "He snores like a grizzly," he said making us fall to the floor laughing.

"No I don't," Gerard said trying to defend himself.

"Uh Gee did you forget that I've been on a tour bus with you and yeah it does sound a lot like a grizzly bear." I said he just looked at me and that is how we ended up on the couch. Well actually I would have insisted that Janay and Pete have the bedroom anyway, but Gerard thought he was getting back at me I might as well let him.

I got out of the bed careful not to wake Frank. I went into the kitchen saw that Gerard was already in there

with a cup of coffee. "Hey," I said it was in the middle of the after noon.

"Aren't you tired?" he said sipping the hot liquid.

"No, I slept on the plane and in the car on the way to the airport. So yeah not so tired." He gave a small laugh.

"Yeah I can see where you wouldn't be tired. So what are you doing today?"

"I don't know I wanted to go and look for a job. Maybe check in at my old job see if they will rehire me."

"Didn't you hate that job?"

"Yeah, but while he's off being a rock star I'm going to need something to keep me busy."

"True, so why don't you get a job you like?"

"I don't think one exists," I said with a laugh.

"I found one,"

"Yeah but you have a talent I don't,"

"You have talent, you just haven't realized it yet. I've heard you sing, I've seen your poems. You have talent."

"Gerard no offense but you're my friend you have to tell me that." I got up from the table, "I think I'm going to go out, tell Frank I'll be back later okay." He nodded and I left the house. I knew where I was going I hadn't been in NY in six months and I actually missed it a lot. I climbed on the bus, the same one that used to take me to work everyday and got off at the stop out side of Maxeen Press. I took a deep breath. Here goes nothing. I entered the building and walked past the receptionist like I still worked there. I headed toward my old cubical. But turned into Miss Linda's cubical instead. When she saw me a huge smile spread across her face.

"Where have you been young lady, I have been worried sick." she stood up and wrapped me in a hug.

"I was in LA for a while then a bunch of different places. I left in a big hurry so I wasn't able to say goodbye."

"Don't you ever do that again, had me all worried. How's that boyfriend of yours? You know that one," she motioned to Michelle's old cubical. "Left not too long after you did."

"Yeah and I don't know how he's doing we broke up before I left." It wasn't a complete lie and she really didn't need all the details. " I'm with a new guy now, you remember my best friend Frank, we are together now."

"So when are you guys getting married?" she asked, she moves fast for an old lady.

"We just started dating about two or three months ago. I think it's a bit soon to be talking about weddings."

"He ain't gonna by the cow if he gets the milk for free."

"Miss Linda, who said I was sleeping with him?" she gave me this yeah right look and I just laughed. "Miss Linda you are a trip, but I better get going I'm supposed to be looking for a job since I'm going to be back here for a while."

"Did you talk to Mike?" Mike was the manager for the customer service department.

"No I didn't exactly give any warning that I was leaving or anything so I don't think he would give me my job back."

"Oh you just go see, then later on I'll talk to him for you okay." I smiled. She was the closest thing I ever had to a decent mother.

"Thank you miss Linda, I'll go talk to him now okay." I went and talked to Mike and much like I expected he said he wouldn't hire me back but just incase I left him my number. Then I went back out to the bus stop. As I boarded the bus there was only one seat. It was next to a tall white guy. He had snake bites black hair, and was wearing a pair of skinny jeans and a band t with a band I'd yet to hear of. I took the seat next to him.

"Hi," he said smiling.

"Hi," I said I hoped he wouldn't try and hit on me cause I wasn't really in the mood.

"I've never seen you on this bus before."

"That's cause I haven't been on this bus." I was trying to discourage him from talking to me, it wasn't working cause he continued.

"Oh yeah I started riding it everyday."

"You work around here?" might as well just get this over with.

"No, I'm looking for someone."

"Oh a girl?" I said.

"Yeah, I really screwed things up with her and I wanna make things right."

"What did you do?"

"Some really bad stuff, but I'm hoping that when I see her she will give me another chance. I love her a lot."

"Do you tell every person who sits next to you on the bus your life story?" I said I mean really he and I had just met.

"No just friends of Janay." I sat there stunned. "I'm Rick," he and I had never met how did he know I was me?

"I don't know what you are talking about," I said standing up to get off, this wasn't my stop, but I didn't want him to know where to find Janay.

"Please just tell her that I want to talk to her." He said grabbing my arm roughly.

"I'm sorry, I can't do that and if you don't let go of my arm I'm going to make a terrible scene on this bus." I whispered. He let me go, but I was sure I would have a bruise there later. I left him standing on the bus and went the opposite way of home. I didn't want him to even know which way to look.

Finally after walking around for a while I decided it was safe to go home, it was starting to get dark. I opened the front door and there was Frank sitting on the couch and looking worried. "Non..." I knew he wanted to be all 'Where were you? Don't ever do that again', but we were home in NY, I knew this city like the back of my hand. He pasted on a smile. "What did you do today?" he said.

"Frank I'm sorry, but I didn't want to wake you and I couldn't sleep." His face relaxed.

"It's okay just next time don't just say 'I'm going out'" I smiled.

"Okay I went out to look for a job," I walked over and sat next to him on the couch.

"Yeah did you find one?"

"I checked at my old job and had a visit with Miss Linda, she said she would talk to Mike and see if she could help."

"I thought you hated that job," I rolled my eyes I'd just had this exact conversation with Gerard earlier.

"I did but now I won't have to do all the extra overtime, so it won't be as bad."

"Okay, you do know that you don't have to work right?" I hadn't been listening, I'd been thinking about weather or not to tell him about Rick, I already knew not to tell Janay. "What happened?" he said once he realized I was in my own world.

"I ran into Rick,"

"I thought you hadn't met him before,"

"I hadn't, but when I got on the bus to come home. He was on it. I didn't even know it was him until I asked why he was telling me his life story."

"How did he know you?"

"I don't know, but he said that he knew I was a friend of Janay's and that he wanted me to tell her that he wanted to talk to her. I told him I wouldn't do that." I left out the whole grabbing me thing, that would just make things worst. "Look we can't tell Janay about this, she would probably freak."

"Okay, we won't tell. You won't go out alone again." He said looking at me seriously, "You told me some of the things he's done to her and I don't want him to get any ideas." I just nodded. That was probably only going to stick for the week or so that Janay was in town, cause then I would have to go places by myself.

Chapter 31

A Love That's So Demanding (62,63,64)

Chapter 62

(Janay's POV)

I didn't sleep well here last night. I kept thinking that Rick was going to magically appear in the bed next to me, but whenever I opened my eyes to check there was Pete sleeping peacefully. I wanted so badly to wake him up and head home back to LA right now, but I was here for Nonnie. This I was doing for her. I didn't exactly understand why she wanted us here, but she did and I was just going to have to deal until Friday.

I got out of the bed and went into the attached bathroom. Non was excited about her and Frank having their own bathroom. I brushed my teeth and got dressed. When I came out Pete was sitting on the edge of the bed. "Good morning."

"Morning, how did you sleep?" he asked like he already knew the answer.

"Not the worst night sleep I ever had."

"But not the best either?" I just shook my head. He opened his arms and nodded for me to come over to him. I walked over to him. "So what are we doing today?"

"Well, I was going to go see my family. I told my mom and dad that I was going to be in town so I'm going to get that out of the way. Then I can give you a tour of this fair city." I said motioning out the window.

"Okay that sounds cool."

"So hurry up and get dressed. I'm going to go wake everyone else up." I left him there to get dressed and ran around the house waking everyone else. Well actually most everyone was already awake. Non and

Frank were in the living room watching TV, already dressed. Gerard was in the kitchen drawing and drinking coffee, which I quickly stole from him. The only one who was still sleep was Bill and Ray went and woke him up. I told Gerard to call Bob and Ray and tell them to come with us over my parent's house.

I was excited for them all to meet my parents and a little scared too. I mean I basically wanted them to meet Pete and approve of him. I just didn't want him to feel too much pressure so I invited everyone else too.

We took the bus to my child hood home and as our stop came up I was starting to get second thoughts about bringing the My Chem guys to meet my parents. This was probably a mistake.

"Okay," I said stopping them before they could walk up the driveway. "There are some rules to be followed, 1. No shoes inside the house 2. No going into the living room accept to get to the other rooms. 3. No burping, farting, or any other unsightly bodily functions. Please guys clean up after yourselves and

watch your language." With that I took a deep breath and led them up to the front door.

(Nonnie's POV)

The door flew open and Janay jumped into the arms of a man who was only about two inches taller than she was. "Daddy!" she screeched. Behind him stood a stern looking woman, who was taller than them both, she smiled at the two of them and then noticed us standing there and her smile fell. "Mommy," she said giving her mother a hug next. "Oh sorry, uh these are my friends, that is Nonnie and her boyfriend Frank." We both stepped forward and shook their hands. "You guys know Rachael, you don't know her boyfriend Bill, that is Bob, Ray, and Gerard..." she stalled a little when it came to Pete, "And this is my Boyfriend Pete." They looked him over and instantly I could tell this was going to be interesting.

Chapter 63

(Pete's POV)

I knew that this was a bad idea, I should have worn a suit or something. Then they wouldn't be looking at

me like I'd stolen something. I decided that before I left this house today they would like me if it killed me. "Well let's go inside we don't want to have lunch on the front porch now do we?" Mr. Davis said. We walked into the house taking our shoes off as we made our way in. He led us past the kitchen where I could smell something being cooked, and into the basement where there was a 40" big screen TV. I was in heaven as were the other guys. "So you are the friend that Janay took to LA with her?" he said talking to Nonnie.

"Yes, Sir she took me and we had a lot of fun. I'm moving back here though."

"Oh yeah, well since you will be here don't be a stranger. We miss having young people in the house."

"Speak for yourself," Mrs. Davis said. She was smiling when she said it but I don't think she was joking at all. We had some pretty pleasant small talk and they asked about Rachael's pregnancy and our bands. I doubt they will ever actually listen to anything that I've played, but it was very nice of them to ask about it and other than a few mumbled curse words

everyone was on their best behavior. Once the food was done cooking we all went upstairs to the dining room. They had a table big enough for all of us to sit at, it was a little weird though cause they had an extra place setting.

As we all settled into our seats around the table the doorbell rang. "I'll get it." Her mother said getting up from the table. When she came back there was a man with her. He was taller than me with snake bites and black hair. He sat down in the extra chair. I looked over at Janay she was pale and looked like she wanted to run out of the room. As if on cue, Non and Ray stood up. "I don't feel so good, I think we should get going now." Rachael said.

"Yeah I was thinking the same thing." Nonnie said. Janay's Father was looking at his wife like she had lost her mind. I was lost.

"Mom can I talk to you in the kitchen, Ray, Non we can stay a little longer can't we I mean the guys are really hungry." They looked like they wanted to protest but sat down anyway. Janay got up and followed her mother into the kitchen.

Chapter 64

(Janay's POV)

"Mom what is he doing here?" I whispered.

"I invited him the other day, I didn't know you would be bringing a whole tribe with you. He said he wanted to talk to you and well you two were so cute together."

"Did you forget the two nights he sent me to the hospital?" I said my voice straining to keep quiet.

"Baby, he never meant to hurt you and he has always taken good care of you."

"Okay mom sending me to the hospital, is not taking good care of me."

"He's gone to counseling for that, he's changed." I just looked at her. "Talk to him and you will see that he has changed." She was stubborn as I was so I knew that if I wanted Rick to leave I would have to talk to him sooner or later.

"No," I guess he will be joining us for lunch. I walked back out into the dinning room. My father gave me

an apologetic smile and everyone started eating in silence. The tension in the room was so thick I could have spread it on to my dinner roll.

"So..." Gerard said I guess he was curious as to what was going on.

"Everyone Rick, Rick everyone." I said. I looked at Pete's face. It was a mix of emotions going across his face. Surprise, then anger, then worry. His eyes met mine and he grabbed my hand under the table and gave it a comforting squeeze.

[I]"Janay, who was he? Why do you smell like some other man?" I closed my eyes hoping to think of something that would calm him down.

"Rick, I would never cheat on you. I love you." I said tears started streaming down my face. Why wouldn't he believe me?

"Stop lying to me, you always lie to me." I stood there in fear as he punched the wall behind me inches from my face. "You are always dressing up for him."

"Rick, I work in an office I have to look professional for my job." I felt a sting across my face as he

smacked me. He's had this temper for months now. Every time we fight it gets worst. This is the first time he's ever hit me. "What..."

"Janay, I'm so sorry I didn't mean to. It's just that I love you so much I can't stand the thought of you with anyone else. "I..."

"Rick you hit me," I said the surprise evident in my voice. I pushed him away from me and went to go start gathering my things. I wasn't staying here.

"Look please," he said taking the things I'd put into my bag out. "Don't go please." I looked at him to see tears falling from his eyes. He never cried. "I promise it will never happen again, just don't leave me like everyone else." I stopped packing my things.

"Rick, its not okay to hit me ever." I said, and left the room leaving my bag on the bed. I wasn't staying here tonight. He needed time to get himself together. I got into my car and went to Ray's house. I could crash there.[/I]

Everyone finished eating and then dad led them all back into the basement. I could tell that he genuinely

like Pete. They had nothing in common but me. Pete didn't let go of my hand while we ate and didn't want to leave me when I stayed behind to help my mother clean up. I was happy that my friends were being so protective of me. No one said a word to Rick accept for my mother she was asking about everything. His band that had broken up after I left, his job which was at a music store. Nothing about him had changed accept there was an unmistakable sadness about his face. He never took his eyes off me. I could feel them through the whole meal.

I was in the kitchen washing dishes, I could hear them all laughing down stairs my mother was putting the leftovers into the fridge. I felt someone's arms circle my waist and pull me back against their body. "Pete, not..." I looked up to see it was Rick, I also noticed that my mother had left the room. I was alone with him.

I pushed him away with my wet hands, and went to leave. "Janay please just let me talk to you," he said in a pleading voice. The way he said it, I knew I was in trouble cause I stopped. I started to say a silent

prayer that Pete would come up stairs. He still had that hold on me, I knew it and so did he. He walked up behind me, and pulled me back against his body again wrapping his arms around me. Engulfing me in that familiar smell of cigarettes and axe cologne. I found myself basking in that smell. I'd missed it. "I'm sorry for everything that I've done. I know that it was wrong, I tried so hard to think of why I did those things to you and I honestly don't know why. But I do know that I love you and these past six months without you have been torture." I heard every word of what he said. I tried to bring back all the bad memories but only the good ones would pop up. Like our first anniversary he got us tickets to see Green Day. Backstage passes and all, Billie Joe dedicated a song to us.

"Janay?" I heard someone say, they sounded far away. Then I realized that it was Pete and he was coming up stairs. Rick was kissing down my neck another thing that had been distracting me. I elbowed him in his stomach and pulled away as Pete rounded the corner.

Chapter 32

A Love That's So Demanding (65,66,67)

Chapter 65

(Pete's POV)

I heard him talking to her, and I waited for her to tell him to go to hell. Only all I heard after his little speech was silence. So I came the rest of the way up stairs to see her pushing him away. Guilt written across her face. She walked over to me. "Rick this is my boyfriend Pete."

"So that means exactly what?" oh I thought I hated this guy before.

"That means back off." I said,

"Those hickeys say different." Janay's hand flew to the side of her neck. I looked at her.

"No they say she's still scared you might put her in the hospital again. That's all." I knew I had won this round even though he was probably more accurate in his assumption. Mine stung him more. "babe I think we should get going." I took her hand and went to the basement steps. "Hey everybody time to go," I said trying to keep my emotions out of my voice. I was pissed at them both him for being here and her for letting him such on her neck like a freaking vampire. Sure that stupid fear excuse should explain it all away but it doesn't. she didn't seem the least bit scared.

"Pete I..." she said as we walked toward the bus stop. Everyone was silent.

"Don't lets just go back to Gerard's." I said there was nothing that she could say right now that would make me feel any better about what had just happened. I am in love with her, and I think she still has feelings for her abusive ex. How do I fix this. I mean even if she wasn't to end up with me. To know

that she would rather go back to the man that has sent her to the hospital on two occasions than to be with me. That hurts like hell.

(Janay's POV)

What the hell is wrong with me? Why didn't I push him away sooner? I know he's bad for me. I know that I love Pete. There's no one else I want to be with, but that smell and his touch. God, I'm so confused.

After we left my parents house no one really felt like doing the tourist things we had planned. For my sake, Non made the guys go out taking Pete with them. Now the three of us sat around the living room talking about what happened this afternoon. " I can't believe your mother." Non said. "She looked at all of us like we were the scum of the earth. I thought she was going to have a cow when Gerard said he would rather eat a dead squirrel than impregnate a cow." we all laughed at that. We don't even remember how the conversation got there but it was hilarious. They were avoiding the real issue that they wanted to bring up about my mother. She had invited my abusive ex-boyfriend over to have lunch.

"Stop." I said after I finished laughing. I just wanted to get the mom bashing out of the way. "I know none of you like my mom and that's okay. If she hadn't given life to me I would probably hate her too. She had good intentions." they both gave me a look that said.

"Yeah right." I continued cause I really needed to get off my chest what had happened in the kitchen.

"While we were in the kitchen, Me and Rick. He well..." I showed them the hickeys.

"Janay! What the hell, why did you let him do that? Did Pete see?"

"Pete didn't see what happened, but Rick told him about the hickeys, and I don't know. I honestly didn't even realize he was doing it until Pete called my name. I don't know what to do. Pete's mad at me, but he's trying not to show it and failing miserably and he has every right to be pissed at me." I saw the pity on their faces. "Do either of you have any advice?" I said mostly looking at Non. She was the only one who had dealt with anything even close to this.

"Don't look at me," she said looking mad that I even asked, "You are in a good relationship. Mine sucked, if you cheat on Pete he will never forgive you."

"I wasn't thinking about cheating on Pete. I love him. its just Rick has this control over. I'm not sure if its fear or love."

"Someone once told me that there it is very hard for anyone to tell the difference between fear in love, because they are such strong emotions." Ray said. "Most times if you have to ask though it's probably the later of the two." She was right as usual. They both looked like they wanted to help, but didn't know how to.

"Look lets forget about everything that happened today, chances are you won't see Rick again before we leave. So we are okay, you will go home and forget that he even exists." Non was doing her best to make me feel better, but I knew better than anyone that Rick would make sure I would see him again.

Chapter 66

[b][I]Since I don't know who is vegan/vegetarian we are just going to roll with them all eating meat k.[/I][/b]

(Nonnie's POV)

I bit my tongue big time while I was talking to Janay. She had the nerve to compare what was going on with her and Pete to what happened with me and Travis. I do see minor similarities accept the most important one. She's in love with Pete. We were in the kitchen cooking dinner for when the guys got back. It was like a scene out of soul food, with collard greens, fried chicken, sweet potatoes, and Rachael's mamma's famous biscuits.

Music played loudly and we all sang along with Green Day's "American Idiot". I rolled up my sleeves to wash the dishes that we had used.

"Non, what is that?" Janay said looking at my arm. I looked down, and suddenly remembered meeting Rick.

"Oh it's nothing just a bruise I got last night that stupid couch bed." I lied. I didn't want her to know

that Rick and I had met before as far as she knew I'd only seen old Pictures of him and today was the first time I'd met him.

"Did Frank do that?"

"We already had this conversation, Frank wouldn't do this. I just slept on it wrong."

"Non you can't get a bruise from sleeping wrong,"

"Well apparently I can." I said rolling my eyes and going back to what I was doing. "And don't mention it to Frank either it will just make him worry. He might insist you and Pete give up the bedroom." I hadn't told Frank about the bruise either. The lies were starting to pile up already and I'd only been in NY for one day.

Chapter 67

(Frank's POV)

We walked into the house and the aroma of food blew under my nose. I loved when Non cooked. She didn't do it often but when she did... the seven of us

walked into the dining room where the girls had set the table, and we all sat down.

"Uh uh," Non said when she saw us, "We cooked now you guys serve the food, and clean up." She said sitting down. "All you really have to do is go and bring the food out and sit it on the table," she knew she had left the easy part for us. We all got up and went into the kitchen. "And you had all better wash your hands." we all looked at each other and laughed. She knew us too well.

After bringing out all the food we all sat at the large dining room table. I sat next to Non. Next to her was Mikey, Ray, Bob. Then Rachael and Bill, Pete and Janay, and last was Gerard on my other side. Everything was going great. Jokes were told, and stories about us on the road. Non was the best at bringing out the funniest ones.

"So Frank, How did Non get that nasty bruise?" she said looking at me accusingly.

"What bruise?" Non said giving her a warning look.

"The one you lied to me about." Non shot her another evil glance then said.

"I don't know what you are talking about, Janay." She hurried on trying to change the subject. "So what did you guys do today?"

"Non, what bruise?" I said, she looked at me with that same warning look, but I wasn't going to give in no matter what. " Look you can look at me like that as much as you want but answer my question."

"Fine, I'll answer you in the next room." She said standing up.

"Non, I think you should tell us all where you got the bruise." Janay said.

"I think you should mind your own business." Non said pulling me out of the dining room. Janay followed right behind us.

"Non?" I said.

"I got it on the bus yesterday." She said trying to put as much meaning into it as she could. But she didn't

really need to cause I understood right away. Rick and given her that bruise.

"Let me see it," she rolled up her sleeve and let me see it. It was black and blue and in the shape of a hand.

"Frank, did you do that?" Janay asked.

"Of course not," if Non wasn't going to tell her I would, I was tired of her always assuming the worst of me. "It was your little hickey giving friend Rick." she looked stunned.

"Frank!" Non said, she probably wasn't going to talk to me for a little while after this. I turned to look at Janay. She was in genuine shock, and behind her I saw Pete. He must have come to get his girlfriend so that Non and I could talk alone. He looked pissed.

"When?" Janay said.

"Yesterday when she went to go find a job, she took your old bus to her old job." I said.

"He's been riding it everyday, since you left looking for you." Non added.

"Why didn't you tell me?" she asked.

"She was trying to protect you." I said, " But you can't seem to let her, why do you have to know everything anyway?" I was letting my temper get the best of me. I knew it. I wanted Janay to like me cause she was Non's best friend. But the way she tries to control everyone is a huge pain.

"Frank that's enough," Non said Pete had come over to look at the bruise. "It's fine," she said waving him away. "I didn't tell you so you wouldn't worry. I've told you before that Frank would never hurt me. You had no right to pull that in there, thankfully it was family or I would be even more pissed than I am."

"Non, why did he do that?" Pete asked.

"I wouldn't tell him where Janay was or tell her to meet him, but don't worry about me. I can take care of myself, plus I'm not allowed to go anywhere by myself." She said looking at me. "Promise me that I didn't get this bruise for nothing stay away from him okay." Janay just nodded.

"Uh you guys had better get back in here or you won't get any of my mamma's famous biscuits. Gerard is going to eat them all." That broke the tension in the room and we all went back to finish eating dinner.

Chapter 33

A Love That's So Demanding (68,69)

Chapter 68

(Pete's POV)

I took off my shirt, stripped down to my boxers and crawled into bed next to Janay. I didn't know how to handle this. Rick was dangerous, he had hurt Non and she's never even met him. Frank was pissed, he told all of us that if Rick showed up here or anywhere near Non, Rachael, or Janay. We were to cause as much pain as possible of course none of the girls were around. They would have told us that we were being over protective and that we really only had to worry about Janay.

I don't think that's true though, I think Rick is going to keep pushing 'till someone bigger pushes back. I'm that someone bigger.

****

I climbed out of bed carefully so I wouldn't wake up Janay, then I went into the bathroom and quickly brushed my teeth. I had a plan, I'm going to go out this morning and get everyone starbucks. Janay, loves starbucks and I'll get her some flowers too. I think I've been a little too hard on her. I don't know what its like to be controlled by an abusive spouse. She's trying to deal the best way she knows how: to control everyone around her.

I got dressed quietly and went down stairs. I made my way to the front door and realized that I didn't know where Starbucks was. I heard someone moving around in the kitchen. As I opened the kitchen's swinging door I saw Non making coffee. "Good morning." I said.

"Shuu, I'm trying not to wake up Frank. I gotta get to the office and fill out some paper work. Miss Linda

got me my old job back she called me last night." She said.

"That's great, but aren't you not supposed to go anywhere by yourself?" she got this guilty look on her face.

"I was just going to go to work. Rick doesn't seem like the early rise type, I was going to call and tell him when I got off work to come and get Me." she had this all planned out.

"You know Frank is not going to go for that." I said with a laugh.

"Yeah well he wasn't going to have a choice. Why are you up?"

"I was going to go get everyone starbucks and Janay some flowers. Only I don't know my way around here."

"Oh see this works perfectly, you can take me to work and then on the way back you can get the coffee and flowers. Come on I don't want to be late my first day back." She grabbed my hand and pulled me out of the front door. "This is where Frank, Travis and I used to

live." She said pointing to an apartment building. "It was our first apartment. We got it fresh out of high school after Frank's mother found out about me sneaking in and out of his room at night." She laughed.

"After your mom kicked you out?"

"Yeah, it took all three of us to get jobs to pay for it. Then I got this job and was able to pay the rent and stuff. They were able to become the rock stars I knew they could be."

"Your talking about Travis like he didn't try to rape you a month ago." I said with surprise.

"I bought all that stuff on myself. Well, a lot of it. If I had been honest with them both none of that would have happened." The bus pulled up and we both got on. It wasn't too crowded, but sitting in a seat close to the back of the bus was Rick. Suddenly Non went silent, we sat down in the front of the bus. As far away from him as we could.

"This is why your not allowed to go anywhere by your self," I said, she gave a small smile. She knew I

was going to tell Frank about this when I got back, I could only imagine what would have happened if she were by herself.

"What? You guys aren't going to speak, and we had such a good time at lunch yesterday," I saw Non roll her eyes. It was clear her plan was to ignore him. "Oh and today you have your midget body guard." He was trying to get to me now. "So have the hickeys I left on Janay's neck cleared up yet. I remember how she used to scream my name when I did that in bed..." that was it. I stood up and got in his face, Non stood up and got between us.

"Pete, who's bed did she sleep in last night?" she asked.

"Yeah she may have been in his bed, hell maybe even his arms but she was dreaming of me." I flew forward forgetting that Non was there and swung at him. Fortunately for him Non pushed me back so that I missed him.

"Pete this is my stop come on," she grabbed my arm and pulled me off the bus.

"Are you okay?" I said as we made our way down the side walk.

"I'm fine no thanks to you. You almost took my head off."

"Well next time don't get in the way,"

"Peter Lewis Kingston III! I know you didn't just say that." She said stopping. I took a deep breath.

"I'm sorry..."

"Yeah he's sorry, Nonnie." We both turned to see that Rick had followed us. "If he didn't know what I said was true he wouldn't be nearly as mad."

"Don't you have some band to run into the ground Rick?" she said turning to him. "One more thing, if Janay wanted you why the hell did she leave in the first place? I would think that she would want to stay here in New York with you, yet she will be getting on a plane in a few days to go back to LA. What does that tell you?" she turned from him and started walking, he grabbed her arm roughly and pulled her back. That was it, I lost it I swung this time hitting him square in his jaw. He fell to the ground.

"Don't ever touch her, or Janay again. Understand? You maybe taller then me, but I will beat you down to my height." Then I turned away and Non and I started walking.

"You happy you got that out of your system?" she asked.

"That was only a small bit of what I wanted to do." I said still fuming. We walked down the block for a while in silence, both of us in our own thoughts.

"Look this is no where near my job, so I'm going to have to catch anther bus. There's a starbucks and a flower shop two blocks that way." She said breaking the silence and pointing. "I'll call home and tell Frank to come get me after work he knows the way there. Okay and be careful," I gave her a kiss on the cheek and made sure she got on the bus okay. Then headed off the starbucks.

Chapter 69

(Janay's POV)

I woke up to the smell of coffee and lilies. I turned to see on the pillow next to me a beautiful bouquet off

of different color lilies. With a small card that simply said "Pete."

"He's too good for me." I said out loud.

"Not even close," I hadn't noticed him watching me sleep from across the room. "You are too good for me." he walked over and kissed me then handed me a cup of steaming coffee.

"Your just proving me right, you know?" I said pointing to the cup. He just smiled. Something was wrong, I couldn't put my finger on it. "Let's go home," it came from me, but I didn't know I was going to say it. This place, this city was tearing the two of us apart. Maybe I was giving location too much credit, but in LA we were happy. We talked about everything, we didn't have to worry about Rick.

"Why so we look like we are running from him?"

"I didn't say anything about him."

"You didn't have to, and no we aren't going home until Friday."

"But Pete, it's..."

"Your afraid you still might have feelings for him?" he said it like it was a fact, did Non tell him that?

"No, it's just. He scares me. He's dangerous when he doesn't get his way. He wants me back, and I know that if he threatens my friends, or me. Since I know what he's capable of..." I let the silence fill the room. "He's always threaten that if I ever left him he would kill me." I'd never told anyone about that not even Ray. "What if he chooses to go after someone I care for when he can't get to me?" I looked over at Pete. He was trying to decide if he wanted to tell me something. "Pete what is it?"

"This morning, I rode with Non to work. Rick was on the bus. He grabbed her again. I punched him, but it's gotten me a bit worried now that you've told me this." He looked like he instantly regretted telling me this.

"Did you tell Frank?"

"Yeah, he's going to be picking her up after work and from then on someone's going to be escorting her to and from. What really scares me is what could have

happened if I wasn't there. She almost left out this morning without any one with her."

"But she knows she's not supposed to..."

"Yeah, but when have you ever known Non to do as she was told?"

"When ever Frank tells her." I said and it was true what ever Frank told her to do she did. Why was this the acceptation?

Chapter 34

A Love That's So Demanding (70,71,72)

Chapter 70

(Nonnie's POV)

I sat in the lobby of my job watching my co-workers leave one at a time. "Darn Pete, why'd he have to go and tell about this morning. I could have been half way home already." I mumbled to myself.

"Good night Nonnie," Miss. Linda said leaving. I waited ten more minutes, then I'd had enough. What was taking Frank so long. I stood up gathering my things, and the lobby door opened revealing Frank. He raised his eyebrow when he saw me with my things.

"And where were you going?"

"I saw you come into the building." I said motioning toward the window and rolling my eyes.

"Liar." he said with a smile. I walked over and kissed him. Then he took my hand and we headed to the bus stop. I prayed that Rick wouldn't be there this time.

I realized that god must hate me, as I boarded the bus I saw Rick sitting in the same seat. It was like he hadn't moved all day. There were no seats on the bus accept one next to him. " I saved you a seat." He yelled from the back of the bus.

"She'll stand thanks." Frank yelled back. I grabbed hold of the rail as the bus took off.

"So now you are being escorted through New York at all times? You must be freaking royalty." I took a step closer to Frank and wrapped my arms around his neck, pulling his face down to mine in a kiss. I didn't hear a word after that and we didn't stop kissing 'till we were one stop away from home. I pulled away.

"We should get off here. He still doesn't know where we live or where to find Janay," I said so only he could hear.

"From now on you are taking a cab to and from work." he said.

"Frank that will cost a fortune we can't afford it."

"We can't afford for you to get attacked by Janay's crazy ex."

"How 'bout I take the cab to and you pick me up after?"

"Okay and on days I can't make it, I'll send someone for you. I can't believe this. We are supposed to be starting a basically worry free life and we have to worry about cleaning up Janay's mess."

"It's not her fault he's psycho."

"She stayed with that prick for a year and a half."

"I know, but I stayed with Travis." I said as if that explained everything.

"Travis never hit you and if he had I would have beaten him senseless.

"He did hit me the last time we saw him Frank and you did beat him senseless." I said with a smile. We were only two blocks away from home. I thought it sucked that I wouldn't be able to goof off all day like everyone else while Janay, Rachael were in town. "But Janay's situation is different than mine was. I don't think any of us will ever understand it until we are in it." we arrived at home. "Don't worry about Rick after Janay leaves town, we won't have to worry about him any more." I was saying that like I really believed it. In all honesty he scared the hell out of me. I wouldn't tell that to Frank cause he would insist that I quit my job.

Chapter 71

(Janay's POV)

I woke up today with a smile. We were going home to LA in a few hours and I couldn't wait, but there was something I had to do first. I crawled out of bed and quietly got dressed so I wouldn't wake up Pete. Then I waited 'till I heard Non, leave in her cab. Once I was sure she was gone I snuck out the front door and got onto the bus. I had to end this thing with Rick. I

hadn't officially told him it was over and I hadn't seen him since at my parents house. I was tired of being scared that Nonnie was going to be in danger I mean this was going to be her new home.

He was always on the bus home, but had yet to touch her since that morning that Pete took her to work. When Frank and I spoke he made it rather apparent that he thought it was my fault this was one thing that we had in common. I knew it was my fault too, I was going to try and do something about it today.

I got off at the stop right out front of his house. Where I used to live with him. This was probably one of the stupidest things I've ever done, but it was important that I do this. I knocked on the door and waited for him to answer. Suddenly I didn't want to do this I wasn't sure this was the right thing to do. I should have had one of the guys come with me.

The door opened a crack and he looked out. Then he opened it all the way with a huge smile. "And to what do I owe this wonderful visit?" I resisted the urge to look down. He wasn't wearing a shirt, and there was

a very good chance he was only wearing boxers. "Well?"

"I...I came by to tell you that from now on you need to leave my friends alone." I said it with bravery that I didn't feel. "Stop showing up on the bus and just leave her alone. I'm never going to be with you again, and today I leave to go back to LA so."

"No, I'm starting to like your little friend. She's cute." the way he said it was like a threat.

"Rick, don't do something stupid. Just forget about her and me." he stepped out the door so that he was standing inches from my face.

"See I can't forget about you, I love you. But I will put in an effort if..."

"If what?" I said taking a step back. He didn't let me get far from him. He stepped closer and wrapped his arms around me. I froze, I wanted to push him away. His lips found their way to my neck, I knew what he was getting at. "If I do this you will leave her alone, all of them alone?"

"I promise," He mumbled against my neck. I knew this was wrong, but I also knew that this was something I had to do. Frank believed that this was my fault and he was right. I would blame myself if Rick did anything to Non. He moved away from my neck to look into my eyes. Then he pulled me into the house. I wish I hadn't come here.

Chapter 72

(Nonnie's POV)

I waited again in the lobby of my office for Frank to come and get me. They were driving in Gerard and Bob's cars. We were taking everyone to the airport to see them off. I know it was a little stupid for me to want them here, but I wanted them to see that Frank and the guys would take good care of me, and that I was going to be okay here. So they wouldn't worry.

Unfortunately today was the worst possible day for him to be late, I really had to pee, and the bathroom here was out of order. We were told to go down the street to Seven Eleven and use theirs. It sucked cause I wasn't supposed to leave the office alone. I stood up

and started pacing back and forth hoping that would help. It didn't.

After I was sure that I couldn't hold it any longer. I left the office walking briskly down the block to the store. The cashier gave me the bathroom key and I made it just in time. I washed my hands and left the store waving at the cashier as I went. If I hurried back they would never know I left by myself.

I passed by an ally way and a hand sprang out and slammed me against the ally's wall so hard my vision blurred. I put my hand up to see if it was bleeding. "Rick," I said once my vision cleared enough to see him.

"Yup it's me, where's your body guard?" I didn't answer him, instead I pushed myself off the wall and started to walk toward the street. I was inches away when he grabbed me again. "Don't walk away from me," he said as his hand connected with my cheek my head snapped to the right.

"What do you want Rick?" I said, maybe I could talk my way out of this.

"I want Janay back, but she's never coming back to me because of you." What was he talking about? "She said this morning after we made love that she wouldn't ever come back to Me." what why was she with him. I am so going to kill her if I get out of this. " If you hadn't made her go to LA with you, she would never have left me."

"Rick, she was leaving you already. I just went with her." Firecrackers went off on the side of my face, as his fist connected.

"You lying slut why should I believe you. You were cheating on your boyfriend with his best friend." I looked at him with I'm sure a surprised face. "What you don't think I keep tabs on who she was hanging out with. I was so happy when Ray left, cause then I got Janay all to myself. Then you showed up and took her away. I knew before you told her."

"He..." his hand covered my mouth.

"Shuuu, you don't wanna disturb those nice people. Do we?" I pushed him away and tried to run, he grabbed my hair and pulled me back. "I told you not to walk away from Me." he hit me again in the face

and I fell to the ground. He kicked me in the stomach, and he wouldn't stop. I heard something crack and felt a searing pain in my left side. It was getting hard to breath, spots of black were taking over my line of vision.

"Rick, please..." I sobbed.

"Please, I like it when they beg," I watched as he started undoing his belt. The darkness was pulling me. I didn't want to be there so I welcomed it. I felt a sting on the side of my face pulling me away from the darkness. "No! I want you awake to feel, everything I do to you."

Chapter 35

A Love That's So Demanding (73,74,75,76,77)

Chapter 73

(Pete's POV)

Janay was being unusually quiet as we packed our things in a hurry we were actually running late. We still had to pick up Non from work, then we were headed to the airport. I've tried a few times to get her to talk to me, but she just says that there is nothing wrong. I guess I'll just have to wait 'till she's ready to tell me. I know she will feel better to be back in LA.

(Frank's POV)

I got out of the passenger's side door and ran into Non's job. Janay had taken forever packing so we were about thirty minutes late. When I opened the lobby door, I saw her things stacked by the chair she would usually be sitting in. she must have went into the bathroom. I walked over to her seat and sat down. I would have to wait for her. Two minutes later an old woman I recognized as Miss Linda came from the back. "Hi Miss Linda. How are you?" I said in my most gentlemanly voice.

"Hi Frankie. I'm getting by. How are you?"

"I'm good, I was hoping you could do me a favor."

"What's that baby?" I smiled at her.

"Could you go into the ladies room and tell Non that I'm waiting for her?"

"The bathrooms here are out of order, she probably went down the block to seven eleven." She said. My smile dropped and I got this sick feeling in the pit of my stomach.

"Thanks Miss Linda, I gotta go." I said running out of the door. Non would have rushed back if she left so

that I wouldn't know she left by herself. I rushed down the block to seven eleven and asked the cashier about her. He said she'd left about twenty minutes ago. Now I had real reason to worry. I started walking back up the street toward the cars. I looked in every storefront that I passed.

Finally I passed by an alleyway something told me to check. I was scared of what I might find. I closed my eyes and said a quick prayer that she wasn't down there. That she was back in the lobby of her job or on the bus headed home. I'd made it pretty far into the alley, I opened my eyes and there was a small mass of body parts. Blood stained the concrete under it. I recognized the shirt she was wearing. It was a piece of our merch from the tour.

Chapter 74

(Janay's POV)

I was sitting in Bob's car wondering what was taking Non and Frank so long. When I saw him running toward Gerard's car, he was cradling something in his arms. I jumped out and ran over to see the thing in his arms was Non. She was beaten so bad it was

hard to tell it was here. She was half naked, her clothes ripped to shreds. I reached out to touch her head as Frank got into the backseat of Gerard's car. "Don't touch her!" Frank yelled. Tears streaked down his face. I felt arms wrap around me pulling me out of the way so the door could close.

"He promised, but he promised." was all I could say.

"Who promised. What are you talking about?" Pete asked as he walked me back to the car.

"They are headed to the hospital, lets go." Bob yelled, turning away from the cell phone in his hand. We piled back into the car, and he drove off.

(Frank's POV)

I held her as gently as I could. She was so hurt. I had to hurry and get to the hospital. Her breathing was shallow, and I couldn't get her to wake up.

We pulled up to the hospital and I rushed in. "Help, my girlfriend needs help." they rushed and took her from my arms. Then the disappeared with her behind doors. I started pacing back and forth. I was in my own head. It was all Janay's fault. She's the

reason we were late. She's the reason Rick did this to Non. I wish to god they had never met.

"Frank, what's going on?" It was Janay.

"Leave." I said quietly.

"What?" she said.

"Janay take your judgmental, controlling, spoiled ass home. Don't come back here again."

"Frank I just want to know what's going on with Non." She said as Pete pulled her back.

"I don't care she wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you."

"I did everything I could to stop this from happening." She yelled back.

"No you didn't if you had Rick would have been in jail the first time he hit you."

"It's not that simple."

"Yes it is you didn't care that Rick might do what he did to you to someone else. You just left."

"I..."

"Shut up. Non is in trouble right now and this is not what she needs. Her boyfriend and best friend fighting." Pete said, "Now both of you sit down." Without thinking I sat down. He was right, I shouldn't lash out at Janay. I still think it's her fault, but she knows that.

Chapter 75

(Nonnie's POV)

I sat in the car, how I got here I don't know. There was a tap on the window and I looked over. "Frank?"

"Paige, I think Mommy isn't feeling well." What? Mommy, he held up a little girl with the skin color of sand on the beach. Her hair long and in pig tails. "Are you going to come in the house?" he stepped back and let me out of the car. I rushed into his arms and pulled him into a kiss. "Non? What are you doing? Travis is home, and not in front of Paige." He said stepping back.

"What?" I said looking at him like he was crazy.

"Hey babe how was shopping." Travis said walking out of the door of this huge house.

"Mommy kissed uncle Frankie," Paige said in a small voice. I was shaking, what was going on?

"Oh did she?" Travis said with a smile, "Come to daddy, baby girl," he reached out for her and she jumped into his arms. I looked at her eyes. She didn't have Travis's eyes. There was no doubt in my mind that she was Frank's child. "Non are you okay? Maybe you should come lie down." He took my hand and walked me toward the house. Frank stood stock-still and watched as we walked up the steps. My eyes were glued to his. I belonged with him. This was his child, this was all wrong all wrong.

(Frank's POV)

That first night in the hospital was the worst. Waiting for the doctors to tell me what was wrong with Non. They tried to keep the information away from me. Saying that I wasn't family. I lied and said I was her fiancé. They didn't really believe me, but there wasn't anyone else asking about her.

They said she had been raped and beaten severely. She had two broken ribs, one of which had punctured her lung. That was why she was breathing

so shallow as I carried her. She had a broken arm, and a bunch of other scratches and bruises. If I hadn't rushed her to the hospital she wouldn't have made it. They said she would be fine after she got some rest. It's been a week and she still hasn't woken up. I haven't left her side since they gave her a room.

I watched as she slept, they said it was some kind of self-induced coma. She didn't want to wake up. She didn't want to remember what happened. I couldn't blame her. They had caught Rick. He was packing his things at his place. He still had Non's blood on his hands when they bought him to be ID'ed. He was going to follow Janay out to LA. I didn't care it didn't change what was lying in the bed in front of me. I should have been there. I could have stopped him, protected her.

I put my hand in hers. She looked peaceful, but I wanted her to be mad at me. If she were yelling at me she would be awake and okay. I just want her to be okay.

Chapter 76

(Pete's POV)

We were back in LA for the time being. Janay tried to get more time off work, but they weren't giving. She and Frank won't talk the only reason we know what's going on there is Gerard, Mikey, Bob and Ray keep us updated. Janay hasn't been herself. I keep asking her about what she said when she first saw Non, but she won't talk to me. I'm so worried about her and Non, I don't know what to do. I've called Frank a couple of times, he didn't sound good at all. They say he hasn't left her side. I don't know what to do to help. One thing is for sure tonight I'm getting to the bottom of what's wrong with Janay tonight.

"Hey, how was your day?" I said as she walked into the door. We were at my place she finally agreed to move in with me.

"Fine, any news on Nonnie?"

"No still the same, I wanted to talk to you about what happened."

"I don't want to talk about it," she said and went into kitchen.

"Janay, I know its eating you up, but you can't blame yourself for what happened."

"Frank was right though, I wasn't thinking about how mad Rick would be. I wasn't thinking about who he would take it out on. I just ran." She turned around, she was crying. "I tried to fix that and it didn't work."

"How did you try to fix it?"

"I can't tell you," she said wiping her tears away. "But it doesn't matter cause it didn't work." She tried to leave the kitchen, but I grabbed her.

"Tell me," I said in a whisper.

"No, it...just no."

"Janay I need to know."

"No you don't, now let me go." I wouldn't let go. She was going to answer me.

"I'm not going to let you keep this all bottled up. Tell me what's wrong?"

"Pete if I tell you this you will leave me, and right now I can't handle that. Please don't make me tell you." She pleaded with me. I couldn't let it go. I

wanted happy Janay back and if I had to piss her off to get it than I would.

"Tell me now." I said, sternly.

"No," she wrenched her arm free and headed back toward the bedroom. I followed close behind her. She tried to slam the door, but I held it open.

"Janay I'm not letting this go, tell me."

"I slept with Rick," she yelled. "He promised he would leave us all alone if I slept with him one more time and I did." She looked away from me. I closed my eyes.

"When?"

"That same morning. That's why I took so long in the shower. I was back before you woke up. Pete..."

"No," I said shaking my head.

"Pete, I..."

"Janay, I have to go now." I said turning and leaving her there crying. She was an intelligent girl, yet she believed Rick when he said he would leave them

alone. I wasn't expecting it to be that. I knew she blamed herself, but I didn't know about this.

Chapter 77

(Janay's POV)

I watched as he left the house. I knew there was nothing I could do to fix this. Like Non said he would never forgive me for this. How did things go so wrong? I should never have gone back to New York. Then none of this would have happened. Everything was so screwed up. I heard the phone ring and go up to answer it. It might be news about Non.

"Janay?" it was Rachael.

"Yeah?" I said as the tears started falling again.

"What's wrong? Forget it I'm on my way." it didn't take her long to get there. She saw my face. "What did Pete do?"

"He didn't do anything, I... I slept with Rick in New York." her eyes bugged and I knew she was just as mad at me as Pete was. She got up to leave but I

grabbed her arm. "I did it for Non, he said he would leave her and the guys alone if I did."

"That's bull and you know it. You had been waiting for a chance to sleep with him. You needed to get it out of your system once and for all..."

"No..."

"Yes you forget I've known you since grade school. He just gave you the perfect excuse to sleep with him again." I looked down, was she right? Is that really why I did it? No it can't be. "I know your smarter than to take him for his word after all the times he promised never to hit you again? Tell me Janay was it worth losing your friend and your boyfriend?"

"I swear..."

"Don't I'm going to go see if Pete's okay." then she left me there alone. What did I do?

(Frank's POV)

I opened my eyes as the hospital door opened. "So this is what happens when I'm not around to keep an eye on you two?"

"What the hell do you want?" I said when Travis came into full view.

"I'm...I just wanted to see her. Really this time I'm honestly just worried about my two best friends."

"How did you even hear about her being here?"

"Gerard told Matt, Matt told me." I would have to kill Gerard later. "Look the way things went down, I'm sorry. I knew when we were in high school the two of you would... should have been together. I guess I let my selfishness get the best of me."

"Travis don't just leave. I don't think she would want you here."

"Please Frank, give me a chance. I want you to meet someone." he turned to the door. "Hey babe." he said. A petite girl about 5'1, with long brown hair with honey blond highlights, came into the room and took his hand. "This is my fiancée, Simone."

"It's nice to meet you. Travis has told me a lot about the both of you." I had expected to hear a Spanish accent but she didn't have one.

"Its nice to meet you too." I didn't really care for either of them to be there, but here they were.

"Moni can you wait out in the hall for a minute. I want to talk to him alone some more." she nodded and left the room. "Frank I really am sorry about everything I did. Simone and I we talk a lot. When I told her about you and Nonnie she almost left me. She says that I gave up my two best friends cause I couldn't stand that you made her happy when I couldn't. I know things will never be the way they were before, but it would be nice if we could start over."

"Travis, I'm not concerned with that right now." I could feel my resolve weakening. "I don't know what I'll do if she doesn't wake up. If I had just gotten there a little earlier..."

"Frank you can't protect her from everything. I know she's fragile and you just wanna protect her from everything. Trust me if anyone knows that feeling its me." he said. "Look you have probably been here for a couple of days, I swear not to do anything. Just go home take a shower..."

"Travis I'm not leaving her."

"At least get something to eat from the cafeteria." he was really trying.

"No that's okay." he looked at me trying to convince me. To go.

"How bout I bring you something?" he said once he realized I wasn't leaving her.

"That would be great." I said, I looked over at Non. She was grimacing like she was in pain. I got up, maybe the doctor could give her some more pain medication.

Chapter 36

A Love That's So Demanding (78,79,80)

Chapter 78

(Nonnie's POV)

[i]I sat on the couch next to Travis watching Paige play with her dolls. She was so beautiful. None of this could be real. The last thing I remember I was walking down the street going back to my office. Then I was here, I figured out that Travis doesn't know about Frank being her father. I don't think Frank even knows. I couldn't stop looking at her, listening to her laugh. "Non?" I looked next to me to find that it was Frank with his arms around me now.

"Yeah babe?" I said.

"You haven't been yourself lately. Are you okay."

"Yeah, I'm..." he started kissing me. Then he started to kiss down my neck. "Frank, where are Janay and Rachael and the other guys?" suddenly he pulled back and he wasn't Frank he was Rick. I screamed as he pinned me to the alley floor.[/i]

And shot up in bed. "No!" Pain shot through my whole body.

"Nonnie its okay. Calm down." someone wrapped their arms around me and I sobbed into his neck. Letting his familiar scent comfort me.

"Rick..."

"I know babe. They got him. He can't hurt anyone else." he smoothed my hair and helped me lay back down. I looked up and was surprised to see Travis standing over me. I now realized that I had a cast on my arm, and my torso was wrapped really tightly and gauze. "I'm going to go get the Frank okay," I nodded and watched him leave the room. I was in too much pain to be afraid of him.

(Frank's POV)

"Doc. Please she looked like she was in pain. Just up the dose."

"If we up the dose she may never wake up. Besides the pain is good, it will force her back to reality." I hated the thought of her in pain, but if it made her wake up.

"Frank! Frank she's awake." Travis yelled running over to me. I ran back over into the room there was food on the floor I just stepped over it and made my way to the bed. She grimaced as she reached out for me. "No babe don't move. Doctor?" he was right behind me.

"Let me do a quick check up and then you can have some alone time okay." she grabbed my hand and held on tight.

"I'll be right out side, I'm going to call everyone and tell them your awake so they can come see you okay." I could tell she wanted me to stay but the doctor wasn't going to let me. She let go of my hand and I grabbed my cell phone off the table and headed into the hallway.

"I just walked in and she shot up in bed Frank." Travis said, with a huge smile.

"Thanks for coming." I said and I really meant it.

Chapter 79

(Pete's POV)

I opened the door to my apartment, I'd spent the night at Patrick's house. He said that I was being a dick. That I should be more understanding toward Janay. Even if she did what she did, she has battered woman's syndrome. He still had that control over her. I knew he was right, but it still hurt. "Really Gerard thank you so much for calling. I'll be on the next plane." Janay said.

"She's awake?" I said causing her to turn and look at me. She gave a timid nod. " I got you something," I ran outside to my car and got the bouquet of lilies and the cup of coffee that I'd stopped on the way home and picked up. When I came back and she saw them she started to cry.

"Pete your supposed to hate me." she said through her sobs.

"I don't want to hate you. I love you so much, it was a shock when you told me what happened. It was a shock. I don't want you and me to end." she rushed over to me and hugged me. I basked in the smell of her hair.

"I'm so sorry. I don't know why I believed him, or even why I went to see him."

"It's okay, we are just going to put it behind us. I mean we gotta get back to new York Nonnie is awake." I said, pulling away. We both went to pack quickly.

(Janay's POV)

I will not screw this up. I thought as we boarded the plane. Ray and all the guys including Andy, Patrick, Joe, Bill, and the rest of his band too were coming this time. They were all really scared that Non wouldn't wake up. I was so happy when Gerard called to tell me that she woke up. Then when Pete came home. I was expecting a fight. In fact I think I deserved for him to be pissed at me and for us to fight.

I almost lost him. I almost messed up the best thing that ever happened to me. I had a feeling that after this he and I would be okay. At least I was going to do my best not to screw it up.

Chapter 80

(Nonnie's POV)

"Miss. Woods I asked your fiancée to leave..."

"Fiancée?"

"We know he just told us that so he could make the medical decisions for you, but I have something else I want to talk to you about."

"Is it bad?"

"It depends on the way you look at it. We've taking blood, and doing a lot of test on you since you came in. the latest one came back positive..."

"Positive for what?" I braced myself for the worst.

"You're...you're pregnant." a mix of relief and terror washed over me.

"How far along?"

"The fetus was conceived on the day you were raped." he said looking down. "You have options, its early you can terminate, or give it up for adoption. What ever you like." I couldn't see myself doing either of those things.

"Doctor, could you just send in Frank. I need...him." my mind was all over the place. Why did this happen to me? He left me there and Frank came in. He rushed to my side and I didn't care how much pain I felt getting out of that bed I needed to be in his arms. He tried to make me stay there, but he didn't want to push too hard so I won and we ended up with him sitting in the chair with me on his lap. "Frank, I love you so much."

"I know, I'm so sorry that I didn't get to you fast enough." he said kissing my shoulder. I didn't want to chicken out on telling him this time. He needed to know.

"I need to tell you something." I said I had to tell him, that I was going to be having Rick's child. "Frank, I'm pregnant again." his mouth fell open and his hand went to my stomach.

"We are going to have a baby?"

"I'm going to have a baby, its... The doctor said it's most likely Ricks child." I said looking away from him.

"Nonnie Woods I can't believe you," I made a move to get off his lap. I knew he would be mad. He grabbed hold of me making sure that I couldn't get up.

"Frank I'm sorry..." he put his hand over my mouth.

"You really think that I would leave you cause of this? I love you and it could be my child. Remember that morning," he cleared his throat. "In the shower." a smile crept onto my face.

"I hope I'm not interrupting anything," Travis said with a smile coming into the room. My whole body went stiff, Frank noticed and pulled me closer. "I know, you weren't expecting me, but I just came by to check on my two best friends. Oh, this is Simone, my fiancée." he motioned to a small girl to come into the room, she looked like she was Puerto Rican. She was pretty.

"Hi, I'm glad you are feeling better."

"Nice to meet you, and congrats on the engagement." I said back. I wasn't going to get to friendly with him after all he's done. I was a very forgiving person, but I had my limits just like everyone else.

"What are you doing here?" Gerard said coming to the door. He was talking to Travis.

"Gee it's okay, he just came to check on Non." Frank said.

"Okay," he said, "I have bought something for our sleeping beauty." He pulled out this huge teddy bear, with a big red bow tied around its neck. He walked over and put it on my lap.

"Hey I have a cast who wants to sign it?" I said with a smile. All my friends were arriving one at a time and I was so happy to see them. Later tonight Janay, Pete, Rachael and all the rest of my LA friends would be arriving. I was excited to see them all.

"And do you remember when..." A knock on the door interrupted Travis telling a story of our old high school days. The door opened to reveal two cops their

badges displayed on the out side of their street clothes.

"Hello I'm detective Gordon, and this is detective Fagan." the female officer said. "We need to talk to Nonnie alone." everyone got up to leave, it was late so they all said their good nights and left. The only person that didn't move was Frank. "Sir. We need to talk to her alone." I didn't want to talk to them. I had a feeling that they wanted me to tell them what happened. It felt like if I talked about it, it would become more real. Like then there was no way I could not think about it.

Chapter 37

A Love That's So Demanding (81,82,83)

Chapter 81

(Frank's POV)

"We really need to speak with her alone." detective Gordon said for the third time. I was trying to think of the best way to tell them that I wasn't leaving this seat.

"What do you want to talk about?" Non asked not making eye contact.

"We need to get some details strait about your attack." she got this look of fear on her face.

"I don't want to talk about it," she was reverting to a child who didn't want to eat her vegetables.

"If we don't get your statement he will go free. It will endanger you and your friend." Non looked up when she said the friend part.

"Can't you do this after we..." I said.

"We have to get this information while its fresh in her mind." the other detective.

"Frank, please give us a minute." Non said looking at her hands. She sounded determined.

"I'll be right out side that door if you need me okay." she nodded without looking up and I left the room. I paced outside the door for twenty minutes, 'till finally the door opened and the detectives left.

"Listen she's a little upset. You should go in there, make her feel as safe as possible." Detective Fagan said.

"Thank you for telling me." I said then walked into the room. "Non?" she lay in the bed with her head in the pillow. I could just barely hear her sobbing into

the pillow. I walked over to the bed and called her again, this time she turned over to look at me.

"Frank, I wanna go home." She said simply.

"I'll have to talk to the doctor."

"I don't care, I don't want to stay here. They told me Rick was out on bail."

"What?"

"He was out that same night. Frank I want to go home now. I can't stay here. He can find me here."

"Nonnie I won't let him hurt you, I 'm not going anywhere."

"He's done it before Frank. Just please can we go home." She was begging to get out of here and I was sure the doctor wasn't going to let us leave.

"Just let me check with the doctor, and then I'll be right back." I left to go find the doctor. Hopefully I could convince him to let her go home tonight.

Chapter 82

(Janay's POV)

We headed strait to the hospital from the airport. I was probably going to lose my job but I didn't care, I just needed to see for myself that Nonnie was okay. I left everyone else outside they were parking and taking their time. I walked up to the nurse's station. "Can you tell me where Nonnie Woods' room is?"

"Wow that girl is popular she's had a lot of visitors, one guy just went up. He was cute." I wasn't in the mood for people to be gushing over my guy friends.

"Uh can you tell me what room?"

"Oh, yeah room 132, right past the elevators." She looked a little mad that I didn't give in to her gossip so I added.

"I'll give him your number if you want?" she smiled and quickly wrote down her number on a piece of paper. I left her there and went down the hall her room. The door was closed and I heard something crash. I swung the door open, and froze.

There was Rick, he was standing over the bed, Nonnie was kicking and fighting as best she could. "I

thought I'd killed you in that ally," he said in a harsh voice. "But you just wouldn't die. Would you?"

"Rick, stop," he turned and looked at me. I felt that pull, but stood stock still at the door.

"Janay you came back?" he said, his hand held Non, by her neck. I could tell she was hurting.

"Yeah, I'm so sorry I left. Let's get out of here, just you and me." I said I didn't know where I was going with this, but Non was struggling to breathe now.

"She... she took you away from me. I have to make sure she won't do it again."

"Rick, I won't let her. She's got her own life here, now she won't interfere with us. I promise." His grip loosened on her neck and I heard her taking deep breaths. I heard someone come up behind me.

"What is he doing here?" Rick said, I turned to find Pete standing beside me. I hoped he would let me do this for Non and just play along.

"He came to apologize for coming between us. He knows that you and I should be together." I pleaded with Pete to play along with my eyes.

"Yeah, I'm sorry for that." He said, he almost had me convinced.

"See Rick they all know that we belong with each other." I could see Non's hand moving. She pulled her IV out of her arm. I shook my head hoping she saw me, but I knew she hadn't. She stabbed him in the hand that was around her neck. He screamed out in pain as Pete rushed past me and tackled him to the ground.

Chapter 83

(Pete's POV)

We both tumbled to the floor, I heard Non screaming for Frank. I didn't care, I had to settle something's with this guy. He hadn't just hurt Non, but he's hurt Janay too. I swung my fist full force at his face and connected I heard something crunch and blood started to gush from his nose. He swung back but missed. They never are much of a match when they

are fighting other men. I kept hitting him until someone pulled me off of him. I was covered in his blood and he was unconscious. I spit on his face as someone pulled me away. I looked over at the bed Non was sobbing on Janay's shoulder. I wrenched myself free and walked over to them, Non had new bruises around her neck. Frank came into the room, and looked around. When he realized what had happened he rushed over and pulled Non out of the bed, so that he was carrying her bridal style.

"Mr. Iero she needs to stay here a few..."

"Shut up, look what just happened. She's going home now sign the papers yourself. You guys coming." he said we stood there for a min. We all followed him outside. Everyone else was still looking for parking. When they saw us they just opened the doors to the rental car. "Hey lets just go home." Frank said to them. He gave them directions and Non just held onto him the whole ride. Janay held onto me. I don't know what happened to Rick, and I don't care.

(Frank's POV)

That makes twice that I haven't been there to protect Non. It just brings to mind what she said the night before I sent her to LA. "Things just seem to go wrong when I'm not with you," and she was right. When I was even just a few feet away from her she was liable to be hurt. I felt her shiver in my arms. I moved her off my lap and took off my hoodie. She was only wearing a hospital gown.

"Here," I said helping her pull it over her head. "Are you okay?" I asked. She nodded, I didn't believe her though. She was shaken up by what had happened. I pulled her back in to my arms. She stiffened in pain but didn't pull away. "How would you like to move away from the city?" I asked. I'd been thinking about this for a little while now. She and I could really use a change in scenery and I'm sure the guys would agree that we could record anywhere.

"But what about..." she started but I had already read her mind.

"The album? We can record anywhere. Hell we could probably get the label to pay for our house to have a

studio. I mean we may have to have the guys move with us..."

"Like we don't already live with them," she said snuggling into my neck.

"I'll talk to them about it later okay,"

Chapter 38

A Love That's So Demanding (84)

Chapter 84

(Janay's POV)

I sat next to Pete, my arms wrapped tightly around him trying to figure out why I still cared if Rick was okay. I had to let it go he's no good for me. I don't even love him.

But what if I do. Am I willing to go back to the man who put me into the hospital and tried to kill my best friend? We arrived at the house and we all headed inside. We had no clue where everyone was going to sleep. It didn't take long for people to start calling out things like "I got the couch." Frank carried Nonnie up

to their room. He didn't say anything. He was probably mad at himself for not being the one to get to Rick first. I can't believe I once thought he would hurt her. I was just jealous. I guess, because she would listen to him and not me. I always wanted to be the one to fix things for her.

I was relieved when Pete grabbed my hand and led me upstairs to Gerard's bedroom they decided the three couples would get the bedrooms. That meant me and Pete, Ray and Bill, and Frank and Non. I sat on the edge of the bed and looked at my hands. I wasn't sure I would be able to sleep tonight. Pete sat down beside me. "You did really good. I understand if you want to call them and find out what happened to him. Just don't tell Non or Frank he would be pissed." I looked at him like he was crazy. "You don't think I saw the way you looked at Non when she was about to stab him? I'm glad she did it though, he was going to kill her."

"I don't want to care Pete, I really don't."

"Then don't." he said getting up, he turned and leaned over brushing his lips across mine. Then he

came back and kissed me full on the lips, I let my mouth welcome his tongue. I leaned back letting his body cover mine making me forget about everything that wasn't in this room. "I love you Janay," he whispered against my lips.

"I love you Pete," I said and I really meant it with all my heart I meant it.

(Nonnie's POV)

I lay in bed for a full week. The doctor wasn't too happy about me leaving the hospital. For the first couple of day's I wasn't so sure I'd made the right decision either the pain was horrendous, if I'd stayed at the hospital, they would have given me a nice morphine drip. Then the pain sort of dulled and it was more of a stiffness that was always present.

Frank was making calls everyday trying to arrange for us to find a big enough place for the six of us. They had all agreed to the moving thing. I was happy although I had a feeling I would miss New York. I'd called my job and told them I wouldn't be back and Frank went and picked up my things for me. I couldn't bring myself to go back there. Everyone was

treating me like a china doll and watching my every move. It was quite annoying to say the least.

I stood up, welcoming the feel of the cold floor on my feet. They also said I wasn't supposed to be moving around, but today I was going to tell everyone about the baby. I mean they would have to know sooner or later. I made my way carefully down the steps. I couldn't believe that all three of these bands were able to cohabitate so well together. Most everyone was sitting around the living room, watching TV. Not really doing anything. When they saw me they erupted into various different forms of the same scolding. "Why didn't you wait for one of us to come help you down stairs." Was the just of it.

"I'm fine, now let me sit down." Mikey stood up and helped me sit down. I just rolled my eyes. "First things first I am so happy to see all of my friends here. You guys know you're my family. There something I need to tell you, its going to come as a surprise." This got all of their attentions. Those that were standing sat down and Frank gave me a look asking me if I was sure I wanted them to know. I

simply nodded and he came and held my hand. "While I was in the hospital they did some routine test. One of which came out positive..."

"Oh my god Nonnie you have AIDS?" Ray said, I looked at him like he was crazy.

"No dummy I'm pregnant." I said laughing.

"So why is this that big a deal?" Janay asked. Realizing that there was more to the story. I took a deep breath and kept eye contact with her.

"They said that the baby is most likely...Rick's." I heard a few gasps.

"I plan to raise this child as my own, and I don't want anyone to tell anyone else any different okay?" Frank said. I could see Janay wasn't comfortable with this. I was having Rick's baby something she had at one time aspired to do. It wasn't that she was jealous of me, more she felt guilty that I had to have my rapist baby. At least that's what I hoped cause there was no real way I could tell with out her telling me or me reading her mind.

"You guys don't have to look at me with pity. I'm just having a baby. It doesn't matter who the real father is. Frank is going to raise him or her with me and we... I have decided that I don't want to know who the father is. I said that to mean that I will not be getting a DNA test. It's not worth the money, and I don't want it to effect the way I treat my child."

"Well congratulations." Pete said wrapping his arms around Janay, she now looked like she wanted to run from the room.

"Since we are sharing good news." Frank said getting up and kneeling down on one knee in front of me. "Non tell all these people that you will marry Me." if I hadn't been stiff as a board I would have jumped up and threw my arms around him. Instead I just screeched "yes" at the top of my lungs. Causing everyone to look at me like I was crazy.

"What? I been waiting since we were in high school for him to ask me that." everyone laughed at me. As I looked around at my family.

THE END

Thank you all for reading. I will be posting the sequel, but this just felt like the right place to leave it. Sorry if I disappointed in any way

Love

Non

About the Author

Nonnie228